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Inter-Arab Affairs

Further on ACC Meeting; Delegations Arrive

Jordan's Badran, Ministers

JN1601123090 Baghdad INA in English 1147 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] Baghdad, Jan. 16, INA—Jordanian Premier Mr. Mudar Badran arrived here today leading a delegation to attend the ministerial committee meetings of the Arab Cooperation Council countries (ACC) starting today.

Mr. Badran is accompanied by an official delegation comprising Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Mr. Marwan al-Qasim, Minister of Transport Mr. Ibrahim Ayyub, Minister of Energy and Minerals Mr. Thabit al-Tahir and Minister of Trade and Industry Mr. Ziyad Fariz.

North Yemen's Prime Minister

JN1601124290 Baghdad INA in English 1210 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] Baghdad, Jan 16, INA—North Yemeni Prime Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani arrived here today leading a delegation on a visit to Iraq to attend meetings of the ministerial body of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) member states due here today.

Mr 'Abd-al-Ghani is accompanied by ministers of foreign [affairs], development, transport and public works and undersecretary of economy, supply and commerce.

ACC Officials Sign Minutes

JN1601153490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1340 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Jan (INA)—The minutes of the first meeting of senior officials at the foreign ministries of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] were signed at the Foreign Ministry today.

The minutes were signed for Iraq by the head of the Arab Department at the Foreign Ministry and head of the Iraqi delegation; for Egypt by Ambassador Muhammad Sami Haybat, assistant foreign minister; for Jordan by Ambassador Hisham al-Muhaysin, director of the ACC Department at the Foreign Ministry; and for the Yemen Arab Republic by Yahya 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Iryani, director general of the Arab and Islamic Affairs Department at the Yemeni Foreign Ministry.

The head of the Arab Department at the Foreign Ministry told INA that the conferees discussed many vital topics, especially the Iraq-Iran situation, the peace initiative declared by President Saddam Husayn during his historic speech on the 69th anniversary of the establishment of the valiant Iraqi Army, the regional and international reactions to this initiative, and its humanitarian aspects. He said the conferees expressed full welcome and support for this humanitarian initiative.

He added that the unionist steps between the two halves of Yemen were also reviewed, with the conferees welcoming these steps as a positive and pioneering development toward Arab unity.

He pointed out that the conferees also discussed the latest developments in the Palestine question, the Palestinian people's intifadah in the occupied territories, ways to expose Zionist intransigence and brutal methods against the intifadah, and efforts to push the United States toward an even-handed position on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

He said the participants discussed the accelerating developments in East Europe and stressed eagerness to maintain the special relations with these countries and to promote them.

They also discussed the outcome of the latest Paris meeting between Arab foreign ministers and EC ministers as part of the Euro-Arab dialogue and the importance of the meeting in light of the current changes in the world.

He said that the outcome of the meeting of the senior Foreign Ministry officials will be forwarded to the meetings of the ACC Ministerial Council, scheduled to open in Baghdad later today.

Meet With President Saddam

JN1601171490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1410 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Jan (INA)—President Saddam Husayn received at noon today the heads and members of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] delegations who are visiting Baghdad to attend the meetings of the ACC Ministerial Council, which begin today. His excellency received Egyptian Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi and his delegation, Yemeni Prime Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani and his delegation, and Jordanian Prime Minister Mudar Badran and his delegation. His excellency also received ACC Secretary General Hilmi Nammar. The meeting was attended by Revolution Command Council members Taha Yasin Ramadan, first deputy prime minister; Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; and Sa'dun Hammadi, deputy prime minister. The meeting was also attended by Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim.

Saddam Addresses Delegations

JN1601210890 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Speech by President Saddam Husayn during a reception for the heads and members of the Arab Cooperation Council's Ministerial Council in Baghdad on 16 January—read by announcer]

[Text] In the future, you are going to face a serious attack against your endeavors in building the ACC. In the beginning, when news agencies used to carry reports on the possibility of a meeting among the leaders of the four

countries, the move did not seem serious. It was not clear yet that the comprehensive view envisaged at that time would surpass this minor step, or that the Arabs had understood the lessons of previous cases and reached a level enabling them to make plans before they act, and that when they plan their future, they are at the same time aware of the facts of their present.

When the ACC was founded and completed, which augured well for the future, it became obvious that a true brotherly spirit crowned these steps. Although all this took place rather quickly, it did not preclude accuracy and meticulousness. Taking this into consideration, it was natural that opposition forces should begin their counterattack. This takes many forms, primarily seeking, as I believe, to rob the people in the ACC countries of their enthusiasm for the next steps that the ACC is expected to implement. By losing the people's support, no action can gain its hoped-for results.

Therefore, when you are prepared to accept a minor mistake, you should not ignore the harm caused by such a mistake, because if minor mistakes accumulate, they will dampen the feelings of the peoples in the ACC countries about the steps so far implemented in setting up the ACC.

We are asked to clarify further what we are undertaking. It is not enough to announce what we have done, or what we are going to do in the future. The important thing is that the people should know what is going on now, not only through a description of the step we are about to take, but also through an explanation of the birth of this step and the circumstances of its origin, as well as its relationship to the four countries. Under such circumstances, the people would know that the step is the best one that can be taken at this stage, and that this is not the end but only the beginning.

Then, the people will continue giving their assistance, whether by commending our steps or criticizing them, leading us to the right path. Because, if the people continue to criticize the step we are about to take even after we have explained it, then it must be constructive criticism. We should keep in mind, however, that the people may criticize our move inaccurately because of their ignorance of the situation or the circumstances surrounding the birth of this step. Therefore, by criticizing a step and its birth in a constructive manner, the people help us in two ways: First, we explain to them the circumstances surrounding the step we are about to implement; and second, they give momentum to the step in order for it to become a living reality.

In the field of culture—I would rather not say information—I believe we should promote and widen our activity in this area, because it is a safe area. It is different from the economic domain where we have no tradition to base our cooperation on. This domain, in many of its aspects, is the offspring of this age. But culture is not the offspring of this age only. It is continuous and dates back hundreds, if not thousands of years. Therefore, not all steps in the field of economy should be accompanied by equal steps in culture. No, our steps in the field of culture should be wider and more comprehensive. The culture we are talking about constitutes the core of our nation's heritage. This culture is not regional, it is shared by all of us. Nevertheless, many economic aspects are linked to a given country's circumstances, the needs of its citizens, and the level of their advancement.

At any rate, enlightened resolve and the faith based on it are always capable of achieving many things that exceed the image developed at the starting line. We have great hope in you, God willing.

Iraq's Ramadan Addresses Session

JN1601193890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1650 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Jan (INA)—Meetings of the Arab Cooperation Council's [ACC] Ministerial Council began here this evening. The ACC is composed of Iraq, Jordan, Egypt, and the Yemen Arab Republic.

Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and first deputy prime minister, led the Iraqi delegation; Prime Minister Mudar Badran led the Jordanian; Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi led the Egyptian; and Prime Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani led the Yemeni delegation.

Taha Yasin Ramadan, gave a speech at the opening session in which he conveyed President Saddam Husayn's greetings and his wishes for the meeting's success in adding new and firm blocks to the ACC edifice.

Ramadan noted that the ACC's history over the past 11 months witnessed regular Ministerial Council meetings and extensive, rich discussions, which achieved important progress toward unifying modes of action and making practicable decisions.

Ramadan pointed out that the agreements and resolutions made over the past 11 months are great in terms of both their material achievements and their moral significance. These achievements were brought about by the positive spirit, the collective vision, and the objective brotherly discussions on all levels at the meetings. It was obvious that everybody was working as a team with one mind and one aim, determined and eager to lay the firm foundations on which the ACC edifice will be built, and making it a symbol and example for effective Arab action based on joint understanding, genuine harmony, and serious enthusiasm for fulfilling the ACC's pan-Arab aims.

Ramadan added: In addition to agreements in the fields of economy, trade, services, education, and culture, parliamentary cooperation, represented by the birth of the parliamentary committee, will greatly enlarge the area of dialogue and the important contribution by people's representatives in the ACC countries. This proves that the ACC derives its identity from the masses,

not only from above or from the official level. The people's representatives are dutybound to enrich the ACC's work because it was born to serve the Arab citizen in cooperation with the popular organizations and trade unions of the ACC states. These organizations have a great role to play and the leaders of the ACC states believe in their great and effective role supplementing that of the official institutions.

Moreover, the completion of the administrative structure of the ACC general secretariat, the arrival at work of all the employees of the secretariat, and the opening of the secretariat's headquarters during this session will make a major contribution toward organizing the secretariat's work. We are fully confident that the general secretariat will play an effective role in the next stage, which will see the implementation of the agreements. This requires new and advanced methods in performance and follow-up so that the Arab citizen can sense a new era of joint Arab action—an era of deeds, and not words. This is especially true since every one believes that the agreements signed can be implemented.

In his speech, the RCC member and first deputy prime minister added: Everyone is following the swift and strong changes in international affairs—changes that have destroyed walls and removed governments. Everyone is also following the rapid race among the advanced and developed countries to establish groupings and blocks based on economics, but aimed at more than economic cooperation.

In light of these rapid changes in the international arena and in our Arab arena—parts of which has been affected positively or negatively—we must prepare ourselves completely for keeping up with this movement and these developments in order to achieve progress for our Arab nation and to invest the best human energies and the abundant natural and mineral resources in our Arab world.

Therefore, the ACC, in serious cooperation with other Arab unions and councils, should double its responsibilities to speed up its work, free itself from all primitive and formal methods that have prevailed in former cooperation formulas, and benefit from its experiences. Having done that, we can rise to the level of advanced and effective formulas that can fulfill the Arab citizens' aspirations to progress, solidarity, and power; and we can compensate for all the missed opportunities of the past years, and invest the new opportunities, including the establishment of the ACC, as a first practical step toward progress.

The first working session then began under the chairmanship of Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, to discuss the agenda presented to the Ministerial Council, which will also discuss 12 agreements, the results of the joint meetings of the specialized ministers of the ACC. These agreements will organize aspects of cooperation and coordination in the industrial, agricultural, trade, scientific, and technological areas in addition to other areas related to planning, tourism, religious affairs, aviation, transportation of goods, and meteorology. After they are approved by the ACC Ministerial Council, these agreements will be submitted to the fourth summit conference to be held in the Jordanian capital, Amman, next month.

Algeria's Ghazali Addresses Maghreb Meeting

LD1501120590 Algiers APS in English 1010 GMT 15 Jan 90

[Text] Tunis. 14/1/90 (APS)—In his speech Saturday [13 January] at the meeting of foreign ministers of Maghreb countries, Sid Ahmed Ghazali, foreign minister, said this meeting which falls in the frame of the preparation of the Maghreb summit has a particular importance as it takes place after a step marked by the setting up of foundations, and structures are necessary to prepare the ground and assure the objective conditions for a global and precise assessment of the action accomplished. This will enable the heads of state of his area to define the actions to be undertaken during the forthcoming step.

The head of the Algerian diplomacy pointed out that his meeting is held in a conjuncture where events in the world as well as changes are rapidely evolving at the political, economic and social levels, foreshadowing thus a new era for international relations. Such a situation reinforces the determination of the union to preserve its rights in this new conjuncure.

This requires, Ghazali continued, the elaboration of a plan of global dialogue for cooperation with other gatherings, mainly those linked to the area by geographical and historical factors. This shows the importance of the responsibility which falls on us and the courage, the sacrifices and the determination it necessitates in order to overcome all the difficulties and realize the hoped objective. In conclusion, the minister said the brotherly atmosphere and the good preparation will enable the realization of our hopes.

Comments on Talks

LD1501112690 Algiers APS in English 1000 GMT 15 Jan 90

[quotation marks as recieved]

[Text] Tunis. 14/1/90 (APS)—"The Union of Arab Maghreb (UMA) is an institution which started on solid bases and which has accomplished a number of realizations", Foreign Minister Sid Ahmed Ghazali, told APS Saturday [13 January]. The head of the Algerian diplomacy considers that the results of the meeting of Maghreb foreign ministers were "very positive".

"The works were held, he said in a brotherly, responsible, frank and constructive atmosphere. There has been a lot of speculation at the other side of the Mediterranean, but whatever is said, UMA has started well".

According to Ghazali UMA has reached "encouraging levels" under the chairmanship of Morocco. "Contacts at all levels have increased and are being developed. The forthcoming step will be characterized by the taking into consideration of the past experience. So there will be a reinforcement of organic instruments in order to face up the increasing needs for the construction of the UMA".

Asked about the political consultation and coordination and regional and international questions as this was recommended by the political declaration adopted Saturday, Ghazali answered that "The UMA concerns all aspects: social, economic and political, and we have felt the need to concentrate on all international questions, not only the economic ones but also the political ones which are of a common interest for all the five countries. This is why in one of the draft recommendations we have asked for is increase of the frequency of meetings.

Answering a question on the persistence of some litigations between Maghreb countries and which could have some repercussions on the future of UMA, Ghazali said this is normal as such litigations have always existed and may also exist in the future."

Bendjedid Receives Tripartite Foreign Ministers

LD1601100890 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 15 Jan 90

[Text] The presidential activities today included a meeting between President Chadli Bendjedid and the foreign ministers of the Higher Arab Tripartite Committee on Lebanon. They are Foreign Minister Sid Ahmed Ghazali, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, and Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdellatif Fillali. The meeting was attended by Lakhdar Brahimi, the Arab tripartite committee's envoy, and by the Saudi and Moroccan ambassadors to Algeria.

After this meeting, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal talked to the national press. He said:

[Begin Sa'ud al-Faysal recording] The meeting, as usual, was fruitful and threw light on a solution for the problem. The president gave us a large portion of his time today. We think that he cleared the way for our work.

As you know, the ministerial committee is about to submit a report which will be presented to the tripartite summit, which in turn, will submit a report to the Arab countries and to the Arab summit. We hope that the result of this report will be a reconfirmation of the Arab steadfastness in support of Lebanon in order to enable it to reach the permanent solution to which we all aspire.

Palestinian Affairs

PNC Speaker Denounces Israeli Plan for Elections

JN1401103690 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 14 Jan 90 pp 24, 20

[By Tawfiq al-'Abid]

[Excerpt] His Eminence Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, speaker of the Palestine National Council [PNC], has asserted that the Israeli threat to hold elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip is a new maneuver which will come to no avail. This maneuver, Al-Sa'ih maintained, is an attempt to procrastinate and ease international pressure on the occupation authorities to respond to peaceful efforts.

In answer to a question by AL-DUSTUR, Al-Sa'ih said: The PLO does not fear the results of any elections, because it trusts its people inside the occupied territories, their true allegiance, and their absolute support for their legitimate leadership in its capacity as their sole, legitimate representative. Furthermore, whatever Israel expects to achieve by this threat will end in failure, and its new maneuver will accomplish nothing.

Shaykh al-Sa'ih went on to say: Our position on holding elections in the West Bank and Gaza is clear. We have stipulated that the elections be held under international sponsorship which provides freedom and democracy to the voters and candidates alike, and that elections should be a part of a comprehensive solution to the Palestine question.

His eminence added: We do not recognize any results or acts which we have not approved and which are not in line with our conditions. The PLO will not relinquish its right to choose its representatives inside and outside the territories. No one, whatever his authority, has the right to do so. Only the PLO has the right to choose a delegation that represents the Palestinian people. [passage omitted]

Abu-Sharif Condemns Israeli Plan

JN1601184890 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1350 GMT 16 Jan 90

[By Faruq Shukri]

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Jan (WAKH)—The PLO condemned today Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's statement that he will not abandon the occupied West Bank and Gaza, adding that this shows Israel is not serious about establishing a comprehensive peace in the region.

Shamir said recently that he will not abandon the occupied West Bank and Gaza so that new Jewish Soviet immigrants can be accomodated.

Bassam Abu-Sharif, political adviser to the Palestinian president, said Shamir and his government are preoccupied with the project of Greater Israel. This fact forces everybody to face their responsibilities, especially the U.S. Administration, whose secretary of state, James Baker, told a public meeting last year that Israel should abandon its dream of establishing Greater Israel.

In statements to WAKH in Baghdad, Abu-Sharif said Shamir's statement is diametrically opposed to a statement by U.S. President George Bush, that the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza must end. Shamir's statement also conflicts with UN resolutions, especially

Resolution 242, whose recognition by the PLO was a U.S. condition for initiating the Middle East peace process, he added.

Abu-Sharif expressed the PLO's concern with Shamir's statement, which "reflects the Israeli Government's policy of heightening tension in the region."

Abu-Sharif stressed that this policy will definitely inflame the situation, driving the PLO, which has committed itself to the peace process and has responded favorably to efforts aimed at a political settlement and a comprehensive peace, to reaffirm that it did not do this out of weakness, but based on the force of justice and right, and the power of the Palestinian struggle and confrontation against the occupation.

He said the Palestinian people have made up their minds to end the occupation forever. The illusions that Shamir still harbors in his colonialistic mind will be of no use to him, he said. This expansionist policy will not only create tension in the Palestinian question, but will also harm the Israelis themselves; and the Israelis are demanding now, more than ever before, cooperation with the Palestinians under the PLO to establish a comprehensive peace in the region and to oppose the expansionist political policy, which aims at destruction and further bloodshed.

Abu-Sharif warned that unless the U.S. Administration, which continues to provide Israel with material and military assistance, adopts a firm position against this expansionist policy and in favor of the immediate initiation of a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue and advancement of the Middle East peace process, then it will bear the responsibility for the deterioration of the situation in the Middle East.

Radio Derides 'Zionist Mentality'

JN1601214090 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1948 GMT 16 Jan 90

["Reading of the Political Situation" feature: "Shamir's Wornout Mentality, Our Valiant Intifadah, and the Absent Nation"]

[Text] Shamir has no choice but to escape from us. With full world recognition of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, and with the absolute unity of our people and their great preparedness for struggle, intifadah, and revolution until victory, Shamir finds nothing to cling to but ropes of illusion. He is trying to convince his fanatic Jewish people of the comfort that the immigrant Soviet Jews will bring. He considers this immigration as the justification for his continued occupation of our country.

According to Shamir's logic, his occupation army will not withdraw from the occupied Palestinian territories because he needs the occupied territories in which to settle the immigrant Soviet Jews, thus occupying these territories demographically after occupying them militarily. Shamir cannot but return to his old empty Zionist logic, which has been proven, many times over, false, elusive, ridiculous, and unacceptable by the world. He returns to the old, wornout Zionist pronouncement that the Jewish settlement in Palestine was aimed at revitalizing empty land—the pronouncement of "people without land for a land without people." This is the core of the crisis of Shamir and his state. The war has been going on for more than 2 years between a full-fledged Palestinian community living on its land and country in the West Bank and Gaza and an occupation army and herds of settlers. The entire world is busy trying to find a solution to this conflict. Nevertheless, Shamir comes today to say and claim before the entire world that there is no Palestinian community on his land, but an empty land awaiting the Soviet immigrant to come from his country and occupy the country of others.

What, then, will Shamir do with the inhabitants of these lands? What arrogance, imprudence, and degeneration of the mind! We say this but we are not worried. But what makes us concerned about this rotten Zionist logic is the complete absence of Arab concern, their failure to realize the danger of this logic, and not just to our Palestinian people. For, through their sacrifice, our people have surpassed every standard. There can be no fears about a people with such unity, struggle, and challenge. But the fear is: What will this nation do as it puts its head in the sand and lives as if Shamir and his endless occupationist, colonialist, and expansionist plans did not exist? [passage indistinct] All that we can say is: O God, we pray to you to guide our nation, perhaps it will feel. As regards Shamir, we will take care of him, his ideology, and his wornout Zionist mentality. Our people will take care of this, our people's intifadah will take care of it.

PNC Speaker Commends Soviet Upgrade of Relations

JN1401095590 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 14 Jan 90 p 24

[By 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Text] In an interview with AL-RA'Y, Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, speaker of the Palestine National Council [PNC], has described the USSR's decision to upgrade the representation of the state of Palestine in Moscow to embassy status as one aspect of the strong friendship which the USSR has been eager to maintain with the Arab peoples in general and the Palestinian people in particular.

Shaykh al-Sa'ih added: We express our appreciation and satisfaction over this decision, and we hope that the manifestations of this friendship will continue.

Shaykh al-Sa'ih denounced attempts by Israel to promote mistrust between the state of Palestine and the Arab countries on the one hand and the Soviet Union on the other, saying that these attempts have always failed.

Shaykh al-Sa'ih called on all the friends in the world to take the example of the USSR, recognize the state of Palestine, and upgrade its level of diplomatic representation to a high status.

Moreover, the PNC speaker expressed his utmost dissatisfaction with the United States' move to cut its participation in the budget of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization [FAO] from $61 million to $18 million because of a decision last month by the FAO which states that in cooperation with the PLO, the FAO will provide the Palestinian people in the occupied territories with the assistance they need for their economic development.

Shaykh al-Sa'ih asserted that this new decision by the United States proves that it is still biased toward Israel and that it is indifferent toward its relations with the Arab countries and the state of Palestine. Consequently, this demands a unified position by the Arab countries to denounce the U.S. stand.

Egypt

'Abd-al-Majid Leads Delegation on U.S. Visit

Comments on Ongoing Peace Efforts

NC1501150990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1414 GMT 15 Jan 90

[Text] Cairo, 15 Jan (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, said that his visit to the United States, which begins tomorrow, is within the framework of constant consultations between the United States and Egypt to give momentum to the peace efforts.

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid hopes that the Egyptian delegation will succeed in its mission of serving Egyptian and Pan-Arab interests during its visit to the United States. The deputy prime minister and foreign minister noted that he will meet with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker to discuss the latest developments with regard to the U.S. peace initiative which aims at starting a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue. This would be a step toward finding a comprehensive solution to the Palestinian issue in light of the recent consultations with the Palestinian leaders.

Dr 'Abd-al-Majid affirmed that Egypt is eager to achieve peace and that the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue is the first step toward it.

Commenting on Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's statement on holding onto the occupied territories to settle the Soviet Jews on them, Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid said that such statements do not serve the move toward peace and it would have been preferable if these statements had not been made.

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid also commented on the dispute that has arisen among Iraq, Syria, and Turkey over the Euphrates River waters. He said that the assistant foreign minister [not further identified] today received a special letter from Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz. He added that Turkish-Iraqi contacts are now taking place in Ankara on this matter. He said: We hope that a solution satisfactory to all parties will be achieved.

Meets With Secretary Baker

NC1701091590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0707 GMT 17 Jan 90

[Text] Washington, 17 Jan (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, described his meeting yesterday with James Baker, U.S. Secretary of State, as useful and worthwhile. 'Abd-al-Majid said that Egypt strongly supports the continuation of diplomatic efforts aimed at bringing peace to the Middle East.

In remarks that were broadcast today by the Voice of America, 'Abd-al-Majid said that no date has been fixed for the holding of a tripartite meeting in Washington between himself, Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens, and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

Dr 'Abd-al-Majid renewed Egypt's commitment to taking part in such a meeting, saying that Egypt is looking forward to that meeting and hopes that it will succeed in furthering the peace efforts.

Dr 'Abd-al-Majid said that he will meet again with the U.S. secretary of state in 2 days time, but does not plan to meet with Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, who is currently in Washington.

Meanwhile, the Voice of America has cited U.S. officials as expressing the hope that the tripartite meeting will be held in the next few days.

Papers Comment on Talks

NC1701112890 Cairo MENA in English 0802 GMT 17 Jan 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, Jan. 17 (MENA)—[Passage omitted] AL-AKHBAR led its front-page news with a dispatch by its Washington correspondent reporting that Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid met yesterday with United States Secretary of State James Baker within a series of meetings Baker will hold within the next three days with the Egyptian delegation and the director of the International Monetary Fund.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid told reporters after the meeting that matters had come up that required discussion with the American side. Egypt, he said, was acting in coordinating with the Palestine Liberation Organisation. He said both sides concerned with the Baker plan had accepted it and that the second stage had begun in which the formation of the Palestinian delegation which would join the projected dialogue and the agenda of the meeting to be held at a later date in Cairo would be discussed, the paper also reported. AL-AKHBAR learned that the Egyptian delegation's visit to Washington concerns the talks Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat recently held in Cairo and that 'Arafat would again visit Cairo shortly to learn the results of 'Abd-al-Majid's talks in the United States capital.

A U.S. Department of State spokesman said Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir denied, during a conversation with the U.S. ambassador to Israel, a "JERUSALEM POST" report that quoted him as saying that the occupied Palestinian West Bank was the territory open for settlement of Jews coming from the Soviet Union. Shamir said the newspaper's report was inaccurate, the paper added. [passage omitted]

Report on Issues Raised

NC1701094890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0614 GMT 17 Jan 90

[Text] Washington, 17 Jan (MENA)—Informed sources in the U.S. State Department have reported that Dr

'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has informed U.S. Secretary of State James Baker of a definite position with regard to the Middle East peace process and the proposals that have been made on this issue.

The sources told a MENA correspondent in Washington that this position, which was formulated in the past few days, includes the outcome of the consultations between Egyptian officials and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, who recently made two consecutive visits to Cairo.

Dr 'Abd-al-Majid met with Baker for 45 minutes yesterday and gave him a message from President Husni Mubarak. The two officials are expected to hold another meeting on Friday in order to continue discussing the issues which were raised during yesterday's meeting.

The same sources added that during their meeting yesterday the two officials also discussed certain economic issues, Egypt's efforts in the sphere of economic reform, and the negotiations between the Egyptian Government and the IMF. These negotiations will form an important part of the Egyptian delegation's task in Washington.

In this connection, it has been agreed to hold a meeting between Dr 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister for cabinet affairs and minister of state for administrative development; Dr Salah Hamid, governor of the Egyptian Central Bank; and Paul Chabrier [name as received], an important IMF official who is in charge of following up the negotiations with Egypt. This meeting will be held at the IMF headquarters at 1430 Washington time today.

The MENA correspondent has learned that the results of the latest contacts between Egypt and the IMF will be discussed during this meeting, including the meeting which was recently held in Paris between the IMF director and Dr 'Abd-al-Majid and the message which the IMF director sent to Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi last week.

Informed IMF sources said they believe that, during the meeting to be held today, agreement will be reached on the phases and steps that will have to be taken in the near future in order to implement the expected agreement between Egypt and the IMF and the principles on which their joint action for the coming few months will be based.

Commentary on Unilateral Election, Shamir Remarks

NC1501164790 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1240 GMT 15 Jan 90

[Bahiy-al-Din Shu'ayb commentary: "What Is the Use of the One-Sided Elections?"]

[Text] For several days the Israeli Government has been hinting that it will hold elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip unilaterally; that is, one-sided elections held by the occupation authority without the Palestinian nationalists having any role in these elections. In other words, the Israeli Government, which has advanced Shamir's proposals for elections, will hold these elections itself, after all the Palestinians had turned down Shamir's plan. The Israeli Government added that it has a contingency plan for that purpose and that this plan is ready to be applied.

Naturally, we will not get into an argument over how elections could be held in territories whose inhabitants reject these elections in principle. Will the occupation authoritities drag the West Bank and Gaza inhabitants by force to the ballot boxes, and how? What will these authorities do if the inhabitatns decline to vote?

The fact is that the recent Israeli statements follow a series of U.S. hints to the effect that the United States has begun to feel that the prospects for the success of the Washington meeting between the Egyptian and Israeli foreign ministers and the U.S. secretary of state are gradually waning due to lack of agreement among the parties concerned. The U.S. statements have become so frequent of late that many have the impression that the United States no longer has time for the Middle East issue. This is because the magnitude of the international issues of interest to the United States is so great that the latter is compelled to turn away from the Arab-Israeli conflict, because the problems of Eastern and Western Europe, Asia, Latin America, and South America are more pressing and serious than the Middle East problem. Some even say that the Middle East issue has preoccupied the international community for almost half a century, wo why not keep it on the agenda for another decade?

The fact is that when Israel felt that the United States was busy with other pressing and urgent matters and that its time does not permit any further efforts toward the Palestinian issue, it hastened to announce its determination to hold the elections unilaterally. By so doing, the Israeli Government wants to take advantage of the wave of democracy that is prevailing in Eastern Europe and that has made international public opinion more responsive to the causes of democracy to give the world the impression that it is eager to hold elections in the West Bank and Gaza, despite the objection of the inhabitants, the PLO, and everyone else. It is as if the Israeli Government wants to say that the Arabs do not understand the meaning of democracy and fear it. Israel is nevertheless determined to hold elections in the West Bank and Gaza, against the will of the Arab inhabitants as well as the PLO.

However, these naive political manuevers no longer fool anyone. Suffice it to say that the statments made today by Yitzhaq Shamir prove that the Israeli Government is not serious in any matter related to the West Bank and Gaza. Shamir declared that Israel will hold onto the West Banka and Gaza territories in order to accomodate the massive wave of Soviet immigrant Jews. Shamir added that more than 300,000 Soviet Jews are expected to arrive in Israel during the next 3 years and that this wave of immigration is one of the miracles that will save

Israel. This means that the story of the unilateral elections in the West Bank and Gaza is no more than a manuever to waste time on futile matters and that it is Israel's adamant intention not to withdraw from the West Bank and Gaza under any circumstances.

Papers Comment on Shamir's Election Plans

NC1701113890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0624 GMT 17 Jan 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 17 Jan (MENA)—Several Cairo dailies today carry editorials denouncing the move proposed by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to hold elections in the occupied territories on a unilateral basis [min janib wahid]. The papers agree that the move confirms Israel's expansionist designs, its desire to perpetuate the occupation, and its refusal to return the land to its legitimate owners.

Under the headline "Unilaterally," AL-AHRAM says that Israel has shown no interest in reaching prior understanding with the Palestinian side or with other concerned parties who have never accepted Shamir's habit of creating a status quo on a unilateral basis.

The paper notes that Arab inhabitants, who face increasing repression, have refused to accept the plan. The unified command of the intifadah has also rejected any election in which the PLO does not have a say.

AL-AHRAM said that Israel, by taking such a unilateral stand, aims at persuading the world that peace efforts have reached a deadlock because of intransigence on both sides, and not on Israel's side alone, and that Israel is therefore entitled to apply its election plans without delay.

The paper concludes by saying that this is a cheap gimmick that seeks to impede international efforts and dissuade other parties from tackling the problem by creating the impression that the two sides to the conflict are not seeking a solution. Israel would thus be free to act unilaterally and impose a political formula by use of force.

Under the headline "Threats That Should Not Go Unanswered," AL-AKHBAR reports on the serious statements made by Shamir in which he said that "Israel needs more land to settle the hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jewish immigrants." These statements, the paper said, must provide a strong motivation for a decisive Arab position backing the right of the Palestinians living in the occupied West Bank and Gaza to establish a homeland of their own.

AL-AKHBAR said: There is no doubt that Shamir made this statement in order to justify his peculiar policies, for Shamir refuses to return the occupied land to its legitimate owners on the pretext of giving shelter to the Jews arriving from the Soviet Union or other countries. This is the same pretext which the Nazi leader Adolf Hitler used half a century ago to justify Germany's acquisition of the land of neighboring countries.

AL-AKHBAR says that it would be an unforgivable mistake for the Arabs to keep silent with regard to the blatant and shameless remarks which Shamir has been making for some time now.

The paper concludes by calling on the Arab leaders to hold an urgent summit meeting to discuss this situation and make firm decisions to confront it on the international level. The Arabs should exert every possible pressure on Shamir and should redouble official and popular assistance to the Palestinian intifadah. [passage omitted]

Kuwaiti Crown Prince, Delegation Arrive for Visit

Judicial Agreements Signed

LD0901220690 Kuwait KUNA in English 2026 GMT 9 Jan 90

[Text] Cairo, Jan 9 (KUNA)—Kuwait and Egypt Tuesday signed here an agreement for bilateral cooperation in judicial fields.

The agreement, concluded with the context of current visit to Egypt by H.H. [His Highness] the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim Al Sabah, was signed tonight by Kuwait Minister of Justice and Legal Affairs 'Abdallah al-'Uthman and his Egyptian counterpart Faruq Sayf al-Nasar.

The agreement provides for mutual extradition of persons convicted with freedom-restricting punishments so as to be rehabilitated in their home countries out of the keenness of humanitarian reasons.

Signing ceremony was attended by Kuwaiti Assistant Undersecretary for Legal Affairs and Planning 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dakhil and Egyptian Justice Assistant Minister Dr. Issam Ahmad [names as received] and senior officials at the Egyptian Ministry of Justice.

Meanwhile, Kuwaiti State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sa'ud Muhammad Al-'Usaymi conferred here tonight with Egyptian Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid.

Al-'Usaymi told reporters afterwards that the meeting tackled several issues including the situation in the Gulf in view of the state of no-peace no-war between Iraq and Iran, in this connection, Al-'Usaymi hoped that the current international efforts would succeed in reaching peaceful settlement between Iraq and Iran in order to preserve the two countries' rights and restore stability and tranquility of the region.

Al-'Usaymi said he discussed with Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid also the Arabs' major cause, the Palestinian question, and that he had been acquainted on the latest developments in this respect.

He stressed the importance of the Egyptian role regarding the Mideast peace efforts noting that Egypt was striving for regaining the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid for his part, described the exchanges as "fruitful, cordial and fraternal" and said views were absolutely identical over issues discussed. "This was expected due to joint fraternal bonds linking the leaderships, governments and peoples of the two countries," he noted.

Al-'Usaymi met here earlier the Foreign Ministry's First Undersecretary and Director of President Mubarak Office for Political Affairs Ussamah al-Baz.

Joint Communique Issued

NC1301152690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1150 GMT 13 Jan 90

[Text] Cairo, 13 Jan (MENA)—Egypt and Kuwait have reiterated their support for efforts aimed at finding a just, comprehensive, and lasting Middle East settlement which guarantees the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, including the right to self-determination and to the establishment of an independent state.

The two countries expressed their support for efforts being made to hold a UN-supervised conference on peace in the Middle East in which all parties concerned, including the PLO, would participate on an equal basis.

This came in a joint Egyptian-Kuwaiti communique issued in Cairo and Kuwait at the end of the visit to Cairo by Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah Al Sabah, Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister, which took place from 8 to 10 January at the invitation of Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi.

The communique stressed that the Palestinian intifadah should continue in the occupied Arab territories. It appealed to the international community to support the intifadah and to put pressure on Israel to stop its oppressive practices against the Palestinians. The statement also commended the PLO's peaceful approach.

The two countries agreed that efforts should be doubled in order to turn the cease-fire reached in the Gulf into a comprehensive peaceful settlement of the Iraq-Iran dispute, on the basis of UN Resolution 598. They expressed their appreciation of and support for the efforts being made by the UN secretary general to remove the obstacles to peace talks between the parties to the dispute. They appealed to the UN Security Council to support these efforts by all possible means, including direct negotiations under the auspices of the UN secretary general, and called for the immediate release of the prisoners of war.

Egypt and Kuwait welcomed the initiative launched by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn on 5 January to settle the Iraq-Iran dispute.

The two countries expressed their satisfaction with the positive developments in sister Lebanon and their appreciation of the efforts of the higher tripartite Arab committee to bring about the al-Ta'if agreement. They called on Lebanese, regional, and international parties to support President Ilyas al-Hirawi, the national accord government, and the al-Ta'if charter, in order to preserve Lebanon's Arabism, territorial integrity, and unity.

The statement also commended the remarkable detente between East and West and expressed the hope that it will lead to international peace, enhance effective economic cooperation in the world, and encourage support for development programs in the developing countries.

Egypt and Kuwait underlined the importance of the existing strong relations between them and the need to strengthen them further in the economic, commercial, investment, cultural, tourist, security, military, legal, and other fields.

The statement also notes that a memo of understanding was signed by the Kuwaiti Fund for Arab Economic Development and the Egyptian Ministry of Industry. According to the memo, the fund will grant the ministry a loan of 14 million dinars to finance a polyester factory project.

The two countries also agreed that the fund should study the financing of a project to reclaim 400,000 feddans in northern Sinai. In addition, they expressed their interest in establishing a holding company for investments in Egypt, with a capital of $500 million.

During the Kuwaiti prime minister's visit, a special protocol was signed under the terms of which the two countries will establish two commercial centers in Cairo and Kuwait, in implementation of a previously signed agreement. The two countries also signed an agreement providing for the extradition of convicted criminals so that they may serve their sentences in the countries to which they belong.

Conclude Visit, Depart

NC1301121590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1205 GMT 13 Jan 90

[Text] Cairo, 13 Jan (MENA)—His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, Kuwait's heir apparent and prime minister, and his accompanying delegation left Cairo this afternoon at the end of a visit to Egypt. The official 3-day visit began last Monday and was followed by a 3-day private visit.

He was seen off at the airport by Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi and other senior state officials.

Replacement of Interior Minister Praised

NC1401080590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2200 GMT 13 Jan 90

[Text] AL-AHRAM newspaper has expressed the hope that a new phase of political action characterized by moderation and adherence to legitimacy will begin now that President Husni Mubarak has issued a decision appointing 'Abd-al-Halim Musa as the successor to Zaki Badr as interior minister. It also expressed the hope that the dialogue between the government and opposition will comply with the disciplines of decorum and felicity and will return to reason and honesty.

In an article to be published by the paper's Sunday edition, Ibrahim Nafi', chief editor of AL-AHRAM, said President Mubarak's decision to replace the interior minister is a victory for nobility and patriotism and an expression of Mubarak's profound conviction that he is a president of all Egyptians with all their various inclinations and opinions and that he is responsible for protecting the Egyptian citizens' life and security, irrespective of their political stands as supporters or opponents.

The chief editor wrote: It is time that we forgot the past period that witnessed excesses and departures from political norms and traditions. It is time that we all began a new chapter, in which we return to our genuine values and established traditions in public work and in which we adhere to our primary responsibility for stability, safety, increased production, and respect for others' views.

In conclusion, he asserted that the protection and perpetuation of democracy and enhanced practice of it is the responsibility of both the government and the opposition. It is not a unilateral responsibility.

Sidqi Leaves for ACC Meeting in Baghdad

NC1501191290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1717 GMT 15 Jan 90

[Text] Cairo, 15 Jan (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi left Cairo for Baghdad this evening. Sidqi is leading an Egyptian delegation on a 3-day visit to Iraq during which he will attend the meetings of the Ministerial Council of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC], which will open there tomorrow, Tuesday.

Jordanian Prime Minister Mudar Badran; 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, prime minister of the Yemen Arab Republic; and Taha Yasin Ramadan, Iraqi first deputy prime minister, will also take part in these meetings.

Dr Sidqi is accompanied by an official delegation that includes Dr Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and minister of planning; Engineer Sulayman Mutawalli, minister of transport and communications; Industry Minister Engineer Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahhab; Manpower Minister 'Asim 'Abd-al-Haq; Cabinet Secretary General Counselor Ahmad Radwan; and Ambassador 'Amr Musa, director of the Foreign Ministry's Organizations Department.

In a departure statement, Dr Sidqi said during the ACC Ministerial Council meetings, there will be a discussion of the draft agreement organizing cooperation among the ACC memberstates in the field of planning, industry, tourism, air and maritime transport, meteorology, energy, health and religious affairs, local government,and data exchange. The draft agreement will then be submitted to the ACC leaders for discussion during their coming meeting, which will be held in Jordan in February. He added that a review of the accomplishments of the ACC since its establishment will be conducted during the Baghdad meetings.

Foreign Ministry Official Leaves for Damascus

NC1501190690 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 15 Jan 90

[Text] A Foreign Ministry delegation led by Ambassador Nihad Riyad left Cairo for Damascus this evening on a week-long visit to Syria. In a statement to our correspondent, Ambassador Riyad said he will choose a new site for the Egyptian Embassy in the Syrian capital following the resumption of the diplomatic relations between the two countries last month. Ambassador Riyad praised the strong ties linking the two countries.

Agriculture Minister Wali Departs for Libya

NC1501155890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1540 GMT 15 Jan 90

[Text] Cairo, 15 Jan (MENA)—Dr Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture and land reclamation, left Cairo for the Libyan capital of Tripoli this afternoon at the head of the Egyptian delegation to the meetings of the Arab ministers of agriculture which start in Tripoli tomorrow. Dr Wali is accompanied on his visit, which will last several days, by Engineer Sa'd Hajras, leader of the Agricultarists Union.

The conference will discuss a number of issues related to achieving agricultural self-sufficiency in the Arab countries.

Dr Wali will also discuss with Libyan officials a number of joint projects in implementation of the decisions made by President Husni Mubarak and Libyan revolution leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi during their meetings in Egypt and Libya.

Libyan Delegation Arrives in Cairo

NC1301131990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1248 GMT 13 Jan 90

[Text] Cairo, 13 Jan (MENA)—Muhammad Lutfi Farhat, Libyan secretary of the People's Committee for Planning, and his accompanying delegation arrived in Cairo this afternoon to visit for several days. Dr Kamal

al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and minister of planning, received the delegation at the airport.

Oil Prospecting Near Libyan Border Reported

JN1101053690 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 9 Jan 90 p 1

[Text] Petroleum and Mineral Resources Minister 'Abd-al-Hadi Qandil has endorsed a new plan for oil prospecting in the Ra's al-Fayis [as published] area, east of Marsa Matruh near the Egyptian-Libyan border. These oil prospecting activities will benefit from joint Kuwaiti-Norwegian investments totaling approximately $12.5 million.

A responsible source at the Petroleum Corporation said that work on drilling the first well in the area, which covers a stretch of land spanning 612 square km, will begin within 5 months, according to the agreement signed with both the Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Exploration Company "KUFPEC" and the French company, Total. These companies are contributing 76 percent of the required financing for this investment project. This amount is also designed to develop the al-Amal oilfield in the Gulf of Suez to increase its production capacity from 7,000 barrels per day [bpd] to 10,000 bpd.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Addresses Agricultural Forum

LD1701112490 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0915 GMT 17 Jan 90

[Text] [Passage indistinct] The brother leader of the revolution delivered an important address at the opening session of the Arab agricultural development organization in Tripoli on 16 January, at the beginning of which he welcomed the Arab agriculture ministers and guests at the session, noting that the creation of this organization coincided with the Great September Revolution, which itself contributed to its early birth thanks to the unionist calls of this revolution.

The brother leader of the revolution stated that this Arab organization, as an Arab League organization, should have contributed toward the building of unified Arab action, stressing that, despite the fact that the Arabs have created all these structures and legislation, we find no empirical application of them because of the hostile foreign interventions.

He noted that the Great Jamahiriyah and Algeria have agreed on a draft federal constitution. However, the United States objected and issued an official statement, saying that unity between Libya and Algeria cannot be allowed, because this unity threatens the interests of the West and the interests of the United States itself.

Brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi urged the members of the organization to make this session a serious start at implementing what was done and decided by the Arabs in the agricultural sector. In this respect he stressed the sensitivity of this sector, which is due to its relationship with guaranteeing food supplies. He pointed out that it is more important than the atomic bomb, and that while the atomic bomb was used during World War II only twice and against one state, the wars of starvation and wheat and economic blockades are (?still continuing) and are used every day by the imperialists to fight us.

Brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi pointed to the announcement by the new U.S. Administration to renew the so-called "economic sanctions" against the Great Jamahiriyah for another year in order to force the Jamahiriyah to abandon its continuing role of agitating for the unification of the Arab homeland and the shedding of U.S. control, a role which the United States does not want. It is working to bring the Jamahiriyah to its knees for that reason.

The brother leader of the revolution pointed to the importance of this session of the Arab Organization for Aricultural Development. He said that the meeting should not be a routine one but should produce practical results to confront European unity, which is a great threat to the Arab homeland.

Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi stressed that the Zionists are determined to control this area so that they can besiege Sudan and Egypt at any new confrontation, despite all claims by the Zionists that Egypt has recognized them, because the Zionists are fully aware that the danger always comes from Egypt and that the present circumstances are only temporary. Hence Egypt remains the greatest enemy for them. They are doing whatever makes Egypt weak and incapable of confrontation and of entering the battle. That is why they want to deprive it of water.

The broader leader noted that there is a dam being constructed in Ethiopia with the help of the Zionists and the Americans, which will take 60 percent of the Nile's water. It is the beginning for strangling Egypt and Sudan.

In his address at the opening session of the 19th session of the Arab Agricultural Organization, he stated that the rivers in the Arab world are threatened and the Arabs must act to face up to these dangers, noting that the region of the Horn of Africa is a rich area and is a target. It is an Arab region, despite the existence of Ethiopia, a non-Arab state, although the Ethiopians are of Arab origin and the Amharis are from the Amhari tribe living in Yemen.

Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi stressed that this rich area will decide the future of the Arab world as a whole in terms of food and water, noting that the current conflict in the south of Sudan and the conflict in the Horn of Africa are a conflict designed to deny the Arabs this rich area, and that the southern Sudanese movement calling itself Anyanya—which means the poisonous insect, is working toward the destruction of Sudan and it will

move to Egypt to work toward the destruction of the national bond among the Arab countries.

The brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi stressed that we insist that the population of the Arab world from the Ocean to the Gulf are Arabs, and that Arabism is a destiny and an affiliation. Those so-called Berber are genuine Arabs who came from the Arab peninsula, and we do not accept the claim that there are Arabs and Berbers in Algeria or in Morocco. We believe that the Berbers are genuine Arabs.

The brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi stressed that controlling the Nile River means controlling half of the population of the Arab homeland, because the largest Arab population exists in Egypt and Sudan.

The brother leader of the revolution stressed that the Zionists are still working to consolidate their footholds in Ethiopia and the Horn of Africa in general, and also in the Bab al-Mandab area, owing to the strategic importance of these areas, in addition to the fact that these areas are rainy and fertile throughout the year. Regarding the Turkish measures to divert the waters of the Euphrates and stopping the flow of its waters to Syria and Iraq, the brother leader pointed out in his address at the opening of the ninth session of the Arab Agricultural Development Organization that he has made contact with the Turkish Government and informed it that the Great Jamahiriyah would not stand idly by in the face of these measures, which are threatening life in the two Arab countries. The brother leader said that because President Ozal is a friend of ours he is now preparing a clarification in this connection; the Turkish Government has also prepared a clarification which will be submitted to the session.

The brother leader of the revolution called for solidarity and unification of efforts inside the Arab Agricultural Development Organization to implement all unification policies to make a unified Arab agriculture. In his address the leader called for the establishment of an executive apparatus to implement the resolutions and studies which are arrived at. The leader reaffirmed that, in order to establish a unified Arab agriculture, we should benefit from water and arable land as well as from manpower, because these strategic bases are not justly distributed in the Arab homeland. The leader called on the Arab ministers to coordinate these Arab capabilities so that they will benefit the Arab nation. The brother leader of the revolution said that the Arab world's food need are annually increasing while production is becoming less, and this will ultimately lead to an agricultural catastrophe, as statistics point out that in the year 2000 the Arab population will approach 300 million and that production will not be sufficient to feed them. The brother leader of the revolution called for the unity of the Arab nation politically and economically, stressing that the midget and paper ministates have no hope in the future in facing European unity. He said: We ought to emerge from this meeting with resolutions which wil make the capabilities of the Arab nation as joint capablities and not regional capabilities.

In conclusion, the brother leader called on the (?Arabs) to purchase the agricultural produce of the Arab peoples in Lebanon and occupied Palestine. He said that the Arabs' purchasing of Palestinian agricultural produce will constitute a help to the intifadah and to the Palestinian people in the occupied territories. He added that the Lebanese people are living through pan-Arab problems as a result of the interference by the Israelis, the Americans, and the West in Lebanon; he reaffirmed the necessity for the Arabs to take a serious stand in support of the Lebanese people who are waging this pan-Arab struggle. He said a helping hand should be extended to the Lebanese growers; their agricultural produce should be bought instead of buying agricultural produce from foreign countries.

Al-Qadhdhafi, Turkish Envoy Discuss Euphrates

LD1601193990 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1950 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] Tripoli, 16 Jan (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution yesterday received the Turkish ambassador to the Great Jamahiriyah. During his audience with the Turkish ambassador, the brother leader demanded explanations from the Turkish Government regarding its recent measures to divert the water of the Euphrates and the consequences of such measures on the river's water levels.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Message From Al-Harawi

LD1501233690 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 15 Jan 90

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution today received Brother Muhammad 'Ali Dallul, minister of agriculture and envoy of the Lebanese president; he conveyed a message to the brother leader from President Ilyas al-Harawi.

Sudan

Rebel Army Captures Garrison Town of Morobo

EA1601151690 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] The Sudanese People's Liberation Army [SPLA] has captured another major garrison town in Western Equatoria, the third major garrison captured by the SPLA in Western Equatoria in the last 10 days. [sounds of martial music]

In their continuing offensive, the gallant forces of the "Bright Star" campaign yesterday captured the garrison town of Morobo 30 miles south of Yei, on Zairean border. The garrison fell at 1600 15th January 1990 after a storm attack. The government soldiers fled into Zaire leaving 12 bodies behind.

"Bright Star" campaign forces yesterday also overran Kembe, popularly known as Bridge-17, and which is 17 miles from Yei on the Yei-Morobo road. The government force that was there guarding the strategic bridge fled to Yei after a brief and fierce battle in which they abandoned all military equipment. [sounds of martial music]

"Bright Star" campaign forces have now completed clearing the Kaya-Yei road after overrunning five garrisons on this road which are Kaya, Kimba, Bazi, also popularly known as Thamaniyyah Wa Thalathin, Morobo and Kembe, also popularly known as Number 17. [sounds of martial music]

With the capture of these garrisons, "Bright Star" campaign forces are now within 5 miles of the main garrison town of Yei. The "Bright Star" campaign commander here repeats the warning to Yei. Patriotic elements in the Army, police, prisons, game wardens and militia are asked to make a decision of their lifetime to join and cooperate with "Bright Star" campaign forces in the area for the capture of Yei.

This is your time. SPLA cells, supporters, and sympathizers in Yei are to exert all their efforts to support the battle for Yei. Those in the Army are to mutiny and join ranks with the SPLA. There is no doubt that Yei will be captured by the SPLA, and patriots inside Yei town must play their role now, not later, when it is too late. [sounds of martial music]

SPLA forces could not find Isaiah Paul [commander of Quwwat Labbayka al-Sudan column] in Morobo. He is wanted alive. SPLA sources in the area have learned that the brigadier with the dirty underwear fled from Kaia on 11th January 1990. He was ambushed at 35 miles and his escort pinned down. In this ambush, Isaiah Paul lost 12 soldiers killed, plus the administrator of Morobo.

Reliable sources have revealed that Brig Isaiah Paul fled into Zaire, camouflaged in a woman's dress.

The junta's troops that have fled into Zaire so far are not less than 1,500. It is up to the government of Zaire to decide what to do with these fugitive soldiers.

In a message to Radio SPLA, the chairman and commander in chief, Comrade John Garang de Mabior, has sent millions of congratulations to the "Bright State" campaign commader, officers, NCO's and men of the "Bright Star" campaign, for their magnificent and strategic victory over the junta's forces in Kajo Kaji, Kaia, Kimba, Thamaniyyah Wa Thalathin, and now Morobo.

SPLA Denies Outside Help in Capture of Kajo Kaji

EA1201214190 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 12 Jan 90

[Text] The official spokesman of the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/Army [SPLM-SPLA] today denied yesterday's claim by Major General PSC [passed staff college] Allison Magaya that a neighbouring country had participated in the destruction of Isaiah Paul's Quwwat Labbayka al-Sudan convoy and in the capture of Kajo Kaji, describing it as crying over spilt milk. The spokesman said these allegations had no basis whatsoever and were a cheap effort by the junta to cover up and explain away its poor performance and to try to raise the law morale of its troops. The defeat of Isaiah Paul and capture of Kajo Kaji may be explained away, but they will not go away, warned the spokesman.

The spokesman said that on the contrary, it was the junta that used the territory of a neighboring country to try to avoid SPLA ambushes in the Muruto area. This criminal act could even help the junta. Upon re-entering the Sudan, the junta's convoy was immediately engaged by the gallant "Bright Star" campaign forces and wiped out within 15 miles from the border and 20 miles from Kajo Kaji, which subsequently fell to the "Bright Star" campaign forces.

The spokesman also denied that any SPLA camps were overrun by the junta's forces, as claimed by Maj Gen PSC Allison Magaya. If such a thing happened then the Major General should explain what caused his Brig Isaiah Paul to run away with dirty underwear and why Kajo Kaji fell to the SPLA. The spokesman also revealed that yesterday, Thursday 11 January 1990, the fugitive Brig Isaiah Paul deserted his troops in Kaia and tried to escape to Juba, using the few vehicles he found in Kaia. But there can be no escape for a commander who deserts his troops.

Isaiah Paul fell into a deliberate SPLA ambush between Kaia and Morabo and fighting is now raging for the skin of Isaiah Paul.

The "Bright Star" campaign commander here ordered all SPLA forces in Western Equatoria to join in the deliberate ambush already laid by "Bright Star" campaign forces, and to destroy any convoy moving from Juba or moving from Yei in attempts to rescue the fugitive Brig Isaiah Paul. Officers, NCO's and men in Juba or Yei that are ordered to go on such a total [as heard] convoy are asked to disobey such illegal orders. The commander of Western Equatoria himself has been defeated, and has ran away for the second time: how much better will others do? And for that matter why should soldiers rescue a commander who has deserted his troops and is running for his life?

Soldiers in Juba and Yei must know that "Bright Star" campaign forces have laid several strong deliberate ambushes between Juba and Yei and between Yei and Kaia. Soldiers going on convoys along these routes—if they do not disobey the illegal orders, then they must say their last goodbyes, because most of that go will not return to regret. [as heard]

Soldiers in Juba and Yei must know that the situation is different, very different from that of 1 month ago. "Bright Star" campaign forces are standing firm on the Juba-Yei and Yei-Kaia roads, and soldiers know that the "Bright Star" campaign knows how to destroy convoys

as witnessed by Yarmuk, Fakk al-Muftaris, Sayf al-Batr and Ibn-Walid convoys of last year and the so-called Labbayka al-Sudan a few days ago. Soldiers of the junta know that this time "Bright Star" campaign is much stronger and has more than quadrupled its original size.

Convoys coming from Juba or Yei beware of "Bright Star" campaign. This is not a joke, we are that serious.

As for soldiers now with the fugitive Brig Isaiah Paul in the place of the ambush, "Bright Star" campaign advises them to desert Isaiah Paul and either join the SPLA or go to Zaire. The SPLA will not follow you to Zaire as we respect international borders. You must decide today. Do not hope for rescue from Yei or from Juba. "Bright Star" campaign has effectively blocked these routes. Parachuting supplies to you is out of question as our missiles are ready. Go to Zaire before you finish.

Military Says Foreign Planes Attacked Kajo Kaji

EA1401161390 Khartoum SUNA in English 0921 GMT 14 Jan 90

[Text] Khartoum, 14 Jan (SUNA)—The Equatorial Military Areas Command issued a statement yesterday reiterating accusation to a neighboring country rebel movement during fighting at Kajo Kaji area.

Aircraft of a neighboring country have been used to attack our forces while they were advancing towards Kajo Kaji area. The advancing forces were only 17 miles away when they were attacked from behind by forces equipped with mobile artillery and aircraft, the communique said. The Armed Forces which had assumed a new route now are capable of dealing harder blows, it concluded.

Spokesman: SPLM Will Not Negotiate With Regime

JN1401193890 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 10 Jan 90 p 1

[Text] Dr Mansur Khalid, former Sudanese foreign minister and official spokesman for John Garang, has said in a telephone contact with AL-AHALI that there is no move to hold a new round of talks in Cairo between the government of General 'Umar al-Bashir and John Garang's movement.

He said the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement [SPLM], led by Garang, will not negotiate with the Al-Bashir regime because of its current policies; the only solution envisaged by the movement is to topple this regime, he said.

Mansur Khalid said the SPLM is against the secession of the south and added that he himself is from the north and cannot possibly advocate secession.

Al-Bashir Departs for Djibouti Summit on Drought

EA1601182390 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 15 Jan 90

[Excerpt] Lieutenant General Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, National Salvation Revolution Command Council chairman, left for Djibouti today to take part in the summit of the intergovernmental authority on drought and development, IGADD, which will be held there 16-18 January. Lt Gen 'Umar is accompanied by Mr Yusuf Sa'id, the political adviser, and Mr Ibrahim Muhammad Ali, under secretary of the Foreign Ministry. [passage omitted]

Agriculture Minister To Head Team to Libya

EA1401173790 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 14 Jan 90

[Excerpts] Sudan will take part in the proceedings of the next session of the council of the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development, which will be held in Tripoli 16-19 January, with a delegation led by Professor Ahmad Ali Geneif, minister of agriculture, natural resources, and animal wealth. [passage omitted]

During the visit the minister of agriculture will discuss with officials there areas of agricultural cooperation between Libya and Sudan, and methods of strengthening and developing them.

It is worth mentioning that a delegation from Libya visited the country last month and discussed with officials ways of promoting agricultural investment and trade between the two countries. The Libyan side agreed to set aside the sum of $10 million for the importation of sheep; $8 million for hides, skins, and fodder; and $9 million for oil-seeds, textiles and aromatic substances. Libya will export to Sudan fuels, chemicals, fertilizers, cement and tiles.

Kuwait

People in 'Dilemma' Without Democratic Process

JN1701082090 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 15 Jan 90 p 6

[Article by chief editor Ahmad al-Jarallah: "Openness Need Not Be Feared"]

[Text] Opinions expressed openly without any hurdles are either accepted or rejected by the people if they are illogical.

People today, are able to distinguish and nothing should make us apprehensive from freedom of expression as long as there are laws to protect the dignity of people—like advanced countries.

The absence of the democratic process, particularly freedom of expression, coupled with the absence of a better programme by the authority, certainly puts people into a dilemma.

What had already transpired was perhaps bad, but the alternative is not certainly better. People want to express their views and do not want to see them suppressed. For supporters of obscenity, there are laws through which they can be punished.

It is thus a grave mistake to continue describing everything as against the public interest. Ironically, the one who decides is a small employee who received instructions and translated them wrongly.

All people want are good health and a secure country—but who will fit the description of the right doctor and the right protector?

The civilised formula and shape in any state cannot be complete if the political leadership does not allow the various opinions to be expressed.

The other opinion cannot be there and will not see the light under the presence of restrictions of any kind. Restrictions may begin small and with a preventive philosophy by the political leadership, but, those who execute it use it as a means for suppressing the "other opinion."

Egypt for example felt after the departure of 'Abd-al-Nasir that it is difficult to keep the people silent and there was no way to assign a small employee with the job of evaluating the people's concepts.

Thus, came about the democratisation process in Egypt and the opposition was allowed to publish their own views. In the initial stages, the opposition press was over-reacting, but, later became well balanced in accordance with public demands and their awareness.

The role of the political authority was a wise one in listening to all sides, while at the same time keeping control over security and treating all with justice.

Launching a strong promotional campaign on a type of soap for example, will lead many to purchase the product. But, if it is later proved that the product is defective, purchase will stop.

This is the way of executing the democratic "game." People alone, through the experiment can distinguish and no one should have the right to make the distinction on their behalf.

Jordan, the small Arab country, has restored the democratic system and allowed expression of opinion in order to listen to everything as long as these opinions remain within the framework of public interest and as long as the people are capable of acknowledging public interests.

It is laws which protect rights and dignity of the public and not the authority servant who turns black into white and vice versa.

The Egyptian Interior Minister Zaki Badr was dismissed after he said too much and much was said about him. The Egyptian security was not disturbed, nor the Egyptian geographic location was altered. This should be a good lesson for regimes of the world.

Foreign Minister Hails Soviet Mediation Offer

LD1301222990 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Jan 90

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh al-Ahmad al-Jabir has welcomed the recent Soviet initiative to bring together Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz and Iranian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati in Moscow.

In a press statement today, he expressed hope the prospective meeting would lead to results achieving and consolidating lasting peace between the two neighboring countries and in the whole region. [passage omitted]

E. Europe Changes Perceived as 'Potential Threat'

JN1301212890 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 12 Jan 90 pp 1, 23

[Editorial: "Kuwait and Egypt: Against Challenges"]

[Text] His highness the heir apparent's just-concluded visit to Cairo and the agreements it produced mark a qualitative shift in relations between two sister countries bound together by kinship and human, pan-Arab ties. The agenda of the visit was packed, with the Egyptian brothers characteristically creating throughout an ambience of friendliness and cordiality.

His highness the heir apparent explained to Egypt's political leadership Kuwait's vision of the requirements of joint Arab action against the backdrop of superpower detente and the potentially negative implications for the Arab world inherent in the East European upheaval and the dismantling of the so-called Iron Curtain.

It is only natural our Arab region should be interested in these changes and the potential threat they pose to our social, economic, and political fortunes. Along with our Arab brethren, we ought to pause and take stock to scrutinize the new alliances that are going to redraw the geographical and political landscape in Eastern and Western Europe. Outlining Kuwait's perception of European changes, his highness the heir apparent said: These changes now are the subject of a comprehensive study to ascertain their dimensions and underlying causes to preempt any negative political, economic, and military effects on the Arab world.

It is only natural his highness the heir apparent should declare while in Cairo that Kuwait's political leadership believes in the usefulness of popular participation and its role in oversight and legislation. Proceeding from this belief, Kuwait will work toward finding a formula that should keep our country from experiencing a third crisis. He said: In Kuwait we raise the slogan of brotherhood, amity, and mutual tolerance for the good of the country and its people.

In fact, his highness's statements reflect grassroots sentiments, not only in Kuwait, but across the entire Arab homeland. It will not be possible for us to come to terms with the changes short of laying further democratic foundations and tearing down all the barriers impeding an Arab get-together. It is a sincere clarion call by Kuwait for laying firm foundations and devising ground rules for action to build an Arab future with people's participation and within a framework of veritable democratic values. If we recognize the need for new formulas for joint Arab action to keep pace with world developments, and more particularly in Europe, we may as well start by getting our own act together and intensifying inter-Arab contacts as a pan-Arab imperative. We would be well advised to reconsider our traditional ties of friendship with certain nations that were struck in different circumstances and conditions. It is high time inter-Arab alliances were first struck and then new relations of friendship between the Arabs and other countries were developed. The new friendships will have to take into account the new geographic realities and the developing changes on Europe's political map.

It remains for us to say the timing of his highness the heir apparent's visit to Cairo and his announcement concerning a series of measures touching on local Kuwaiti and Arab concerns are highly significant, deeply reassuring and heartening.

Prime Minister Reviews Domestic, Regional Scene

PM1601165090 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 15 Jan 90 pp 14-17

[Interview with Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim Al Sabah, prime minister and heir apparent, by Fu'ad Matar in Kuwait on 2 January]

[Excerpts] [Matar] We were interested in a statement that you made 2 days ago regarding the unity of ranks and the joining of forces at the internal level. What are the reasons for that call now?

[Shaykh Sa'd] Anyone who examnined the conversation between me and my brothers and the press association chairman and members must have interpreted my statement within the context I intended.

What I mean is we are a small society and our strength lies in the internal front's solidity and cohesion. We must not give ill-intentioned people or conspirators a chance to interfere in our internal affairs or enable them to implement their schemes by weakening or fragmenting the internal front.

[Matar] More generally, at the Arab level, what is Your Highness's concept of the unity of ranks and joining of forces?

[Shaykh Sa'd] Unity of ranks is represented by the agreed comprehensive action concerning the drawing up of a strategy in the military, informational, political, and economic fields. The Arab world's weight can be increased through such a strategy. In other words, unity of ranks means unity of opinion and a united march. [passage omitted]

[Matar] Do you view current developments in the Eastern bloc states as internal matters concerning these states, or do they concern every state in the world, including the Arab states?

[Shaykh Sa'd] In principle, what has happened in these states is an internal matter. But these developments have political and economic dimensions. Although these developments still are not clear, the phenomenon itself deserves our examination and consideration to understand these dimensions. [passage omitted]

[Matar] Does His Highness not believe Gulf security will continue to be threatened as long as Iran continues to reject direct negotiations to reach a permanent and comprehensive agreement?

[Shaykh Sa'd] It is natural for some Gulf region peoples to be concerned, and we hope the Iranian Government will agree to a direct dialogue between it and the brothers in Iraq to arrive at a formula guaranteeing this region further stability and security and takings away the concern and fears existing among the Gulf Cooperation Council peoples.

[Matar] Is the Lebanese question no longer among Kuwait's concerns and just part of its interests, now that the al-Ta'if document and the Arab tripartite committee have shouldered the responsibility for finding solutions to the Lebanese question?

[Shaykh Sa'd] The Lebanese issue—especially regarding its entity, sovereignty, and salvation from homelessness, destruction, and ruin—still is the object of Kuwait's interest both officially and among the people. Regarding the six-man committee headed by Kuwait, it can be said that committee did its utmost to secure a formula that

would achieve a new start for Lebanon. Since the Casablanca summit chose the tripartite committee comprised of King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, King Hassan II, and President Chadli Bendjedid, we have been following the efforts of our brother tripartite committee members, who have produced the al-Ta'if document. We are following with great interest the efforts of our brother tripartite committee members and their contacts with the officials in Syria, Iraq, and the friendly states. We are ready to do our utmost for the sake of the committee's success in its good endeavors. [passage omitted]

[Matar] How do you feel about Iraq's ability to launch the "al-'Abid" missile system?

[Shaykh Sa'd] Iraq's success in launching that system is a success for the Arab nation in the military field. [passage omitted]

Oman

Sultanate's Budget for 1990 Centers on Investment

PM1101144190 Muscat OMAN DAILY OBSERVER in English 2 Jan 90 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Budget Geared to Investment"]

[Text] Muscat—Deputy Prime Minister for Finance and Economic Affairs, Qays Bin-'Abd-al-Mun'im al-Zawawi yesterday announced the Sultanate's budget for 1990 which had been ratified by His Majesty Sultan Qabus.

The new budget puts more emphasis on investment to activate the national economy and promote trade.

In a statement to OMAN NEWS AGENCY, the Deputy Prime Minister said that the estimated revenue for the year 1990 is 1,433 million Omani riyals with an estimated volume of total public expenditure of 1,747 milllion riyals.

This includes: current expenditure, investment, expenditure on oil production, assistance given to the industrial sector and specialised banks.

Estimated total expenditure for this year has been increased by eight per cent compared with the previous year.

The deputy prime minister added that the estimated expenditure on investment on new projects during 1990 is 516 million riyals, 243 million of this to be spent on new projects included in the third five year plan.

On the distribution of the budget, Mr al-Zawawi said that 553 million riyals is allocated for national security and defense, 625 million riyals for current civil expenditure, 200 million riyals government's expenditure on oil production, estimated 235 million riyals for projects, 13 million riyals to assist on loans given by specialised banks.

The deputy prime minister stated that the 1990 current expenditure budget of 625 million riyals is 4.5 per cent higher than that of the previous year.

This increase is made to meet the expansion of education, health, municipality;s services and the necessary needs of some ministries.

Of the total current expenditure, education is receiving 24 per cent, public services 20 per cent, energy 16 per cent and health 11 per cent.

The rise in oil prices during 1989 has contribtued positively to the state revenue and reduced the estimated deficit when the 1989 budget was prepared.

Therefore, this year's budget has been based on realistic oil prices during 1989, the minister added.

Although oil prices had witnessed some improvements during the second half of 1989, the fluctuation of prices over the past few years does not help in predicting the future of the oil market.

"This requires us to be cautious and contiue the policy of rationalising expenditure in the best possible way whereby it will not affect the level of performance," Mr al-Zawawi said.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Sends Message to Sultan of Oman

LD1601212390 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Excerpts] The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, sent a message to his brother His Majesty Sultan Qabus Ibn-Sa'id of Oman about the distinguished fraternal relations between the two countries, their development and growth for the benefit of the two countries, and issues of mutual interest.

The message was conveyed by Mr Ibrahim Ibn-'Abdallah al-'Anqari, the personal adviser to the custodian of the two holy mosques, when he was received by Sultan Qabus Ibn-Sa'id today, Tuesday, at al-Sif Palace. [passage omitted]

Mr Ibrahim al-'Anqari returned to Riyadh this evening. [passage omitted]

Prince Sultan Holds News Conference 16 Jan

LD1601225490 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Excerpts] His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general, pointed out the aim of the economic equilibrium program in Saudi Arabia is distributing development and preparing Saudi skilled hands.

His royal highness said the economic equilibrium is the fruit of the directives of the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, to recover many of the hard currency funds spent on (?weapons and investments), so we here can benefit from them. His royal highness described this step as positive and constructive.

His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz was replying to questions during a news conference conducted today in Riyadh after attending the graduation of the 37th class of the King Faysal Air College and the celebrations of its 20th anniversary.

In reply to a question about military training, his royal highness stressed that joining the Armed Forces in Saudi Arabia is open to everyone. He pointed out there is a great demand to join the Armed Forces and that the training is compulsory in countries whose people refrain from joining the Armed Forces. His royal highness thanked God, first and last, for enabling Saudi Arabia to reach this level.

His royal highness the second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general, was asked whether there are deals for buying defensive weapons. He said arms deals are not announced until they are completed. [passage omitted]

In reply to a question, his royal highness stressed the state will continue supporting the Armed Forces and security in Saudi Arabia. He said supporting the Armed Forces is support for our honorable country and people. He added: Security is needed and is a duty, and I stress this country enjoys a blessing from God because of its adherance to its Islamic faith. [passage omitted]

Replying to a question about the Saudi views of the Arab atmosphere, he said Saudi Arabia always is optimistic. He pointed out the new building of King Faysal Air College now is under construction according to its plan.

In the field of military industries, his royal highness pointed out in his reply the Kingdom (?cooperates) in military industries with its fraternal countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council. His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz said: I hope there will be comprehensive cooperation in industry among all the Arab nations.

Finance Ministry's Statement on 1990 Budget

PM1101153390 Jeddah SAUDI GAZETTE in English 1 Jan 90 p 11

[Undated "statement" published by the Ministry of Finance and National Economy]

[Text] Riyadh, Sunday—The following is the text of the statement issued by the Ministry of Finance and National Economy:

Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz has, upon recommendation by the Council of Minsters, decreed the state general budget for the new fiscal year 1410-1411 (1990) which commences on December 31, 1989, corresponding to Jamad II 3, 1410H.

The main features of the new budget are presented in the second part of this statement. The first part includes preliminary estimates of economic growth and development achieved by the Kingdom during the fiscal year 1409-1410 (1989).

National Economy in 1989

Growth of the national economy continued in 1989 for the third year in a row.

Non-oil gross domestic product (GDP) registered an estimated growth of 4.6 percent in current value in 1989 compared to 1.9 percent in 1988.

The private sector's current rate of growth is estimated at 4.4 percent in 1989, almost two percentage points more than the 2.8 percent rate of 1988.

Among the private sector activities, agriculture and industry sectors continued their buoyant development registering growth rates of 11.3 percent and 10.4 percent, respectively, last year.

The financial and banking sectors achieved similar progress which was reflected by large profits and enhanced efficiency. Loan disbursement by specialised credit institutions amounts to 4.8 billion rials in 1989.

The 1989 cost of living index registered a very low increase estimated at 0.9 percent which is lower than the 1.0 percent increase in 1988.

The lower level in the cost of living index is mainly due to a higher domestic production of goods and services, increased competition in retail activities, and higher import efficiency.

Total value of exports is estimated at 102 billion rials in 1989 reflecting a 12 percent increase over 1989 [as published]. The increase is attributed to improvement in oil prices and a higher non-oil national exports.

New Fiscal Year 1410-1411 (1990)

Total State revenue for the new fiscal year is estimated at 118 billion rials.

For the purposes of Budget financing and the creation of a sound domestic investment instrument the government will issue developments bonds worth 25 billion rials in 1990.

Budget spending for the new year is set at 143 billion rials.

The main appropriations of the Budget include the following:
1. Human resources development, which includes education and training 26.19 billion rials.
2. Agriculture and water 6.89 billion rials.

3. Health and social development 11.79 billion rials.
4. Transport and communications 9.22 billion rials.
5. Municipal services 6.89 billion rials.
6. Industry, electricity and housing 4.79 billion rials.
7. Defence and security sector 51.89 billion rials.
8. Domestic subsidies 7.18 billion rials.

In addition to direct Budget expenditures, the Government specialized credit institutions will disburse 6 billion rials in soft loans to the private sector.

Thus total government spending in the new fiscal year (1410-1411) 1990 will amount to 149 billion rials.

The new Budget includes 49.4 billion rials allocated for the completion of vital projects and the start of new ones. These projects include new development and improvement programmes for the two Holy Cities of Mecca and Medina, expansion of water desalination at a cost of 2 billion rials to supply Medina with fresh water, completion and start of new university campuses in Riyadh, Mecca, Qasim, and 'Asir.

In the health sector, three new major hospitals in Jeddah, Qunayzah and Bishah will open in the new fiscal year. King Fahd medical complex in Riyadh and the Gulf hospital in al-Dammam will be completed.

In transportation and communications, new sections of the Riyadh-Mecca free-way will be constructed. King Fahd Road and the last section of Riyadh ring road will be completed.

New phases of King Fahd International Airport and its road network connecting the airport to cities in the Eastern Province, will also start together with the completion of current construction at 'Abna and al-Madinah airports.

Expansion of the telecommunications network by 500,000 lines at a total cost of approximately 5.2 billion rials will also begin during the new fiscal year.

The ministry's statement said it hopes the new budget will enhance the economic recovery achieved over the last three years.

50 Sick, Elderly Iraqi POW's Arrive in Baghdad

JN1701112490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1100 GMT 17 Jan 90

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Jan (INA)—Fifty sick and elderly Iraqi prisoners of war [POW's] arrived in Baghdad today aboard an International Red Cross aircraft. The Iranian authorities had released them earlier today.

The POW's were received at the airport by the secretary of the permanent committee of war victims and representatives of the Foreign and Defense Ministries.

Release of 20 Wounded Iranian POW's Announced

JN1701111890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT 17 Jan 90

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Jan (INA)—An official Iraqi spokesman has announced the release of 20 sick and wounded Iranian prisoners and their return to Iran under supervision of the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC]. This step confirms Iraq's humanitarian approach and its abidance by the international and heavenly laws.

The official spokesman stressed the number of prisoners that recently has been released by the Iranian side constitutes a very small number of the sick and wounded prisoners, let alone the overall number of prisoners, which totals approximately 100,000. He pointed out the Iranian decision is no more than a propaganda step taken to ease the international pressure on the Iranian regime due to its disgraceful stand toward the issue of prisoners, which conflicts with the international and humanitarian law and the 1949 Third Geneva Convention on prisoners of war [POW's], which stipulates the release of all POW's and their return without delay to their homeland immediately after termination of actual hostilities.

The spokesman pointed out Iraq reiterates leader President Saddam Husayn's initiative calling for the release of sick and wounded POW's without exception, and for their return to the homeland. It also calls for the release of POW's who long have been in captivity, their return to the homeland, and getting all POW's registered.

All these proposals are within the framework of the essential and comprehensive proposal of releasing all POW's and returning them to their homeland to end their suffering and their families' anxiety.

Iraq calls on the ICRC and the international community to assume their responsibilities and pressure the Iranian regime to accept the best solution, namely, the comprehensive exchange of all POW's in implementation of the 1949 Third Geneva Convention.

Iraqis Free To Travel to 'All Parts' of World

JN1701112890 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1100 GMT 17 Jan 90

[Text] We have received the following from the Presidential Office: Leader President Saddam Husayn has ordered the opening of travel for Iraqis to all parts of the world. Pursuant to this order, his excellency entrusted the economic committee to institute the necessary regulations.

Government 'Studying' Halt of Oil to Turkey

JN1601200290 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 15 Jan 90 p 1

[Excerpt] AL-QABAS has learned the Iraqi Government is studying "the adoption of measures," including stopping the oil flow to Turkey if Ankara insists on the present schedule for cutting off Euphrates water to fill the Ataturk Dam.

Oil Minister Returns From Visit to Turkey 15 Jan

JN1601065290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2150 GMT 15 Jan 90

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Jan (INA)—Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd-al-Rahim al-Jalabi, personal envoy of President Saddam Husayn to Turkish President Turgut Ozal, returned to Baghdad this evening with his delegation.

The minister told INA that during the visit he conveyed a written message from President Saddam Husayn to Turgut Ozal. He said the message dealt with bilateral relations and their future horizons, as well as the Euphrates water supply during the present and future phases.

Al-Jalabi added: Ozal has asked me to convey his greetings and best wishes to President Saddam Husayn. He also asserted Turkey's irrigation projects are not intended to harm any of its neighbors, and Turkey takes considers those countries' water needs when planning such projects.

Al-Jalabi said the meeting also dealt with a number of proposals to regulate the flow of water at present and in the future in a way that ensures all parties can benefit from the waters according to acceptable bases. He also said during the coming weeks, a series of meetings will be conducted to achieve that goal.

He explained that during his 2-day visit, he discussed with Turkish officials means to improve bilateral relations, particularly in the economic field, to prepare for the meetings of the next session of the Iraqi-Turkish joint committee, scheduled to begin in Baghdad in March.

Council Reviews Soviet Prosposal, Euphrates Issue

JN1401184090 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Jan 90

[Text] President leader Saddam Husayn this morning chaired a 4-hour meeting of the Council of Ministers. During the meeting topics on the agenda were discussed and appropriate decisions and resolutions adopted. Among the topics covered were proposals from the Ministry of Health to amend a number of current laws and resolutions, including a draft law presented by the National Committee for Fighting Alcohol, Drugs, and Intoxicants, and a draft law for an initial amendment of the 1985 law No 63 of the Cancer Council. A number of other draft laws and resolutions also were discussed.

The Council of Ministers discussed the draft law of the Financial Control Department. After discussing in detail the articles of this draft law and proposing some amendments, the Council of Ministers recommended their approval.

Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, reviewed the Soviet proposal for conducting a meeting between the Iraqi, Iranian, and Soviet foreign ministers. He stressed Iraq welcomes any direct meeting between the two sides anywhere to reach a joint understanding of Resolution No 598's provisions, adding the meeting should not constitute an alternative to the initiative launched by President leader Saddam Husayn on 2 January. The deputy prime minister explained the basis of the Soviet initiative, and said when the Soviet Union proposed such a meeting last year, Iraq informed the Soviet Government last August it approved of the idea. He added that since then the Iranian position has been hesitant and vague, and Iranian policy is known for its maneuvering and avoidance of direct negotiations.

Deputy Prime Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi also reviewed developments in the issue of the Euphrates Basin waters, as well as Iraq's contacts with Turkey to discuss it in harmony with existing close relations between the two neighboring countries, based on the principles of good neighborliness and joint cooperation.

President Chairs General Command Meeting 15 Jan

JN1501200890 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 15 Jan 90

[Text] Staff Field Marshal President Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, this evening chaired a meeting of the Armed Forces General Command. Defense Minister Staff General 'Abd-al-Jabbar Shanshal and Husayn Kamil, minister of industry and military industrialization, attended.

Jordan's Badran Delivers King's Letter to Saddam

JN1601152290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1405 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Jan (INA)—President Saddam Husayn this morning received Jordanian Prime Minister Mudar Badran. Badran conveyed to the president a written message from his brother His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan on the strong relations between the two sisterly countries and issues of common interest.

U.S. Decision on Libya 'Flagrant Intervention'

JN1501110890 Baghdad INA in English 1040 GMT 15 Jan 90

[Text] Baghdad, Jan 15, INA—AL-THAWRAH daily of Baghdad strongly criticized the U.S. stand in extending the economic embargo imposed on Libya for another year.

In its article published today, the paper said that using economic relation by a state to build pressure on another one with a view to achieving political goals was unacceptable method, because it would create grave reflections on the international relations.

The paper branded the American behavior as a form of flagrant intervention in other states internal affairs and a manner of belittling the national sovereignty.

The American decision is an attempt to impose will of great power on a third world country, despite that the international law gives them the same rights, and duties.

The paper warned against gravity of this kind of conduct in the international relations confirming that this conduct did not affect the regime and government only, but would prejudice the peoples besides expanding the area of differences and disputes in the world.

The paper concluded as saying that a state such as the United States should first perceive these realities and should refrain from imposing sanctions on other states, because it would by this conduct, encourage the others to follow up the same dubious behavior.

U.S. Senator Dymally Makes Statement, Departs

JN1601120890 Baghdad INA in English 1145 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] Baghdad, Jan 16, INA—U.S. Senator Mervyn Dymally [of Calif.] left Baghdad this morning concluding a several-day visit to Iraq.

In a statement to INA, Mr Mervyn described the peace plan released by President Saddam Husayn on Jan 5 as an initiative for a comprehensive and everlasting peace between Iraq and Iran and in the whole region.

He added that he had had talks with several Iraqi officials on bilateral relations and issues of common concern.

U.S. Congress Delegation Departs 14 Jan

JN1401124690 Baghdad INA in English 1200 GMT 14 Jan 90

[Text] Baghdad, Jan 14, INA—The U.S. Congress delegation, headed by Senator Arlen Specter, left Baghdad early this morning ending a three-day visit to Iraq.

During its stay, the delegation held talks with Iraqi officials on bilateral relations and issues of common concern.

The delegation was seen off at the airport by several Iraqi officials at the Foreign Ministry and the U.S. charge d'affaires in Baghdad.

Shamir: No 'Pushing' Immigrants to Territories

TA1601181290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir says various elements around the world are pressuring the Soviet Union to put an end to the large wave of emigration to Israel, but he is confident the Soviet Union will not do that. Prime Minister Shamir and Immigrant Absorption Minister Yitzhaq Peretz today toured Rishon Leziyyon to have a first-hand look at absorption of immigrants in the city. At the end of the tour, they replied to questions by journalists, including our correspondent Avraham Ben-Melekh.

[Begin recording] [Ben-Melekh] The immigrants can choose where to live in Israel and no one is pushing them to Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza in particular. The prime minister told foreign correspondents who asked him to explain his remarks that a big immigration requires a big Eretz Yisra'el. When I said big, Shamir said, I meant a strong Eretz Yisra'el. He went on to say that, in his opinion, his remarks would not cause any damage whatsoever.

[Shamir] What I said is that to absorb a large wave of immigration, we must be a strong, united country. We need this to fulfill this aspiration, which has been the aspiration of Zionism since its inception and the vision of the Biblical prophets. I do not think what I said can cause any damage whatsoever anywhere in the world, in view of the fact the Soviet Union has changed its policy and has stipulated every Soviet citizen is free to live wherever he wants or to change his place of residence. I think the Soviet Union will persist in this policy. Despite pressures exerted on the Soviet Government by various elements around the world to put an end to this emigration, I do not think the Soviet Union will do that.

[Ben-Melekh] Did your statement not carry any territorial significance?

[Shamir] Everyone knows I want all of Eretz Yisra'el to be in the hands of the Jewish people, period. I have not changed my position, and I hope I will never change it.

[Ben-Melekh] You did not mean this is a condition for immigration?

[Shamir] Definitely not. Moreover, I was asked whether we would send the immigrants to areas in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza in particular. I replied: No, the immigrants are free to live wherever they want. If they want to live in Rishon Leziyyon, that is where they will go; if they want to live in Ari'el, they will go to Ari'el; if they want to live in Qiryat Shemona, they will go to Qiryat Shemona. [passage omitted] [end recording]

'Senior Sources' on U.S. Cuts, Shamir's Remarks

TA1701064890 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 17 Jan 90

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman]

[Text] Jerusalem is taking seriously Senator Dole's proposal to cut foreign aid. Senior political sources this morning told us what is involved this time is not merely pressure tactics on Israel to moderate its positions on the peace process. In the past, Israel has heard reports about aid cuts many times, but those were aimed at advancing some political aim. This time, Jerusalem has the impression the reasons are practical, and that is why concern is being expressed. The sources also believe the fact the suggestion came from Senator Dole does not necessarily show the administration is not really behind the initiative.

Other sources in Jerusalem said rumors about U.S. budget cuts also have arrived in recent days from leaders of the Jewish lobby, the America Israel Public Affairs Committee, touring Israel. If it transpires there is a real aim to cut aid, the sources added, we will use all means available to prevent such a move. In terms of Israeli-U.S. relations, this includes requests by government leaders here for personal clarifications from U.S. Administration leaders in Washington, and especially, pressure exerted by Jewish public opinion in the United States.

On a similar issue, Jerusalem was surprised by the sharp reactions in the United States to Shamir's speech about the need for Greater Israel to absorb immigrants. Those reactions were one of the reasons for Shamir's clarifications on the subject in his speech yesterday.

Peres Reacts to Dole Call for Reduced Aid

TA1701144590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 17 Jan 90

[Text] Finance Minister Shim'on Peres has said Senator Dole's call to cut aid to Israel is very disturbing and should be taken seriously. Minister Peres hopes the cut will be avoided because Congress has reached a decision that aid to Israel will not be less than the extent of the annual Israeli debt repayment to the United States and, as a matter of fact, all the economic aid is designed for this purpose.

The finance minister also noted the erosion in U.S. defense aid to Israel. He said U.S. inflation and the increase in the price of weapons have caused the erosion of defense aid. Shim'on Peres addressed the Commercial and Economic Club in Jerusalem.

Our correspondent, Menahem Friedman, adds Minister Peres again said that he sees no reason for a devaluation because exports are profitable, and last year there was a substantial improvement in Israel's balance of payments.

Ambassador to U.S: Dole Article 'Trial Balloon'

TA1701180190 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 17 Jan 90

[Telephone interview with U.S. Ambassador Moshe Arad in Washington, with Dan Shilon and Goni Mardor—live]

[Text] [Shilon] Good evening.

[Arad] Shalom, and good evening.

[Shilon] From your end, does the threat to cut aid look real, tangible?

[Arad] The way I see it, Senator Dole's article and public appearances yesterday were a sort of a trial balloon sent by him and probably other elements in Washington to examine the comments to these proposals. Judging from comments made so far, however, I believe that there is a widespread understanding for Israel's economic and defense needs as far as aid goes, although in the next couple of years, we will have to face the changing reality of the U.S. economic-budgetary situation. This means an unavoidable cut in the aid budget is probable, not resulting from an intention to warn or deliver a political message to us, rather in relation to the U.S. economic reality.

[Mardor] Disregarding the message, do you believe there will be a cut in aid to Israel? Shim'on Peres says the possibility should be taken seriously.

[Arad] The possibility should be taken seriously. I, however, wish to tell you that we here will fight to maintain the level of aid.

[Mardor] Has the struggle already begun?

[Arad] I believe the first chords were sounded already yesterday in Senator Dole's remarks, in our comments to them, and in comments made here yesterday by spokesmen of Jewish organizations and senators and other Congress members who disagree with Senator Dole.

[Shilon] Is the threat to cut the aid—although perhaps not a political pressure on Israel—connected with what commentators term as the feeling of being fed up with Israel's behavior?

[Arad] No. I believe that the debates focus and are held on the backdrop of events that took place in Eastern Europe; on the background of new U.S. commitments to the newly established regimes with a neutral or pro-democratic orientation in Eastern Europe; on the backdrop of events in Panama; and are related to the struggles in Central America. All of these are new needs felt by the United States and its public opinion.

[Shilon] Moshe Arad, Israel's ambassador in Washington, thank you very much.

[Arad] Thank you.

Peres To Visit CSSR, Egypt; Arens to Spain

TA1701055190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 17 Jan 90

[Text] Vice Premier Shim'on Peres will next week meet President Mubarak in Cairo in an attempt to find ways to overcome obstacles to the proposed meeting of Israeli and Palestinian delegations. Peres will arrive in the Egyptian capital on Wednesday from the CSSR. Foreign Minister Moshe Arens left this morning for an official visit to Spain and Portugal. Jack Katzenell reports:

The visit of Vice Premier Peres to Cairo is a joint initiative of Peres and Foreign Minister Arens, and is aimed at closing the gap between the Israeli and Arab sides on the conditions for holding the proposed meeting between Israeli and Palestinian delegations. Peres will fly into Cairo from Prague, where he will be the guest of his opposite number, the Czechoslovak finance minister. Peres will be the first Israeli minister to have visited the CSSR since it broke off diplomatic relations with Israel in 1967.

Foreign Minister Arens will also be visiting Prague in the middle of next month and will be discussing the renewal of diplomatic relations, something the new Czechoslovak president, Vaclev Havel, has already promised to do by the summer.

At the end of next month Arens will visit Warsaw to sign an agreement on the renewal of full diplomatic relations with Poland. Poland already has an interest section, and Israel has a similar office in Warsaw.

This morning Arens left on a 5-day official visit to Spain and Portugal. He will meet Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez and Foreign Minister Fernandez-Ordonez to discuss the Middle East peace process, bilateral issues, and Israel's relations with Europe. Arens will have an audience with King Juan Carlos and will visit the Jewish community in Barcelona. In Portugal he will meet the prime minister, the foreign minister, and President Mario Soares.

Weizman Comments on PLO, Visit to Soviet Union

LD1201202690 Moscow TASS in English 1912 GMT 12 Jan 90

[Text] Moscow January 12 TASS—'Ezer Weizman, Israeli minister of science, is pleased with his stay in the Soviet Union. He was on an unofficial visit here from January 5 to 11 at the invitation of the Soviet Academy of Sciences.

In a TASS interview before departure from the Soviet Union, the Israeli minister said he had a very interesting meeting at his own request with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

He said that during a conversation with Shevardnadze he pointed to the need for the improvement of relations between the two countries.

As regards relations with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), the minister said there are different approaches in Israel to this problem.

"The Israeli Government does not wish to conduct negotiations with PLO, whereas my personal opinion is that we should negotiate with it," he said.

Weizman said he was given an opportunity to visit research institutes, meet his relatives, and prominent Soviet scientists, to travel in the USSR and more deeply understand the problems it encounters.

He said the visit's programme was very hectic and interesting.

Police To Investigate Al-Husayni for Incitement

TA1601163690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] Attorney General Yosef Harish has decided to order the police to launch an investigation against Faysal al-Husayni for suspected incitement. The decision was made following a complaint lodged by Knesset Member Tzahi Hanegbi concerning remarks Al-Husayni made 4 months ago at a news conference in Jerusalem.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir points out Al-Husayni said at the news conference that Palestinians do not like to see collaborators in their midst and, just like any other nation, they make sure informers are not granted the right to live among their brethren.

U.S. Should 'Launch Peace Process' Immediately

TA1601202090 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 15 Jan 90 p 7

[Editorial: "Washington and the Real Potential"]

[Text] Cairo intends to deliver a reply to the new U.S. proposals after coordination with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. U.S. Secretary of State James Baker is saying he is pessimistic and the U.S. Administration has connections and interests in other parts of the world. Moshe Arens responds to the U.S. proposals by saying: "Israel will make preparations to conduct unilateral elections in the occupied territories."

The compromise solutions referred to by the U.S. Administration pertain to procedural matters relating to the mechanism of conducting a Palestinian-Israeli meeting in Cairo, or even before this convening, a tripartite meeting in Washington between the foreign ministers of Egypt, Israel, and the United States to search for ways to ensure Israel's agreement to send a delegation to Cairo.

The main problem that prevented implementation of Baker's procedural points was represented in Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's conditions. Based on these conditions, which exclude the PLO from the peace process and rule out participation of Jerusalem's Arab residents or Palestinians from outside [the territories] in the Palestinian delegation, there will be no Palestinian delegation. According to Shamir's viewpoint, not accepting these conditions means there will be no Israeli delegation.

If the United States, Egypt, and the great majority of the world's countries decide there is no possibility of forming a Palestinian delegation without PLO participation in choosing the delegation and announcing the names of its members, can one think of conducting elections in the occupied territories which Israel alone is creating?

There are no substantial points in Baker's plan around which this fabricated uproar might arise. The issue is not related to the final status of the Arab occupied territories, the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people, Security Council Resolution No 242, or even official PLO participation in the delegation.

These issues were not contained in Baker's plan. The talk is about the PLO's announcement of names of Palestinians from the occupied territories and the names of two of the deportees, provided they are not members of any PLO organization. The main topic of the proposed meeting in Cairo is the elections. Despite this, the U.S. State Department says it is fed up and is impatient with the foot-dragging and maneuvering. How will the situation then be when the parties to the conflict begin discussing substantial issues?

The Palestinian-Israeli conflict will not be resolved by a mere tripartite meeting in Washington or an Israeli-Palestinian meeting in Cairo. The U.S. Administration immediately must take necessary serious steps to launch the peace process. The entire world realizes the reality of U.S. potential, particularly when the strategic partnership between the United States and Israel is deepening daily at the very time the parties to the conflict are moving, bit by bit, away from the halls of negotiations.

Peres: Likud Hesitation May Cause Dissolution

TA1601165890 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] On the eve of the convention of the Likud Central Committee next month, Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres said he expects it finally to decide whether it supports negotiations with the Palestinians. Minister Peres clarified that, if the Likud will not permit progress in the peace process, the government would be disbanded. Roni Sofer, our correspondent in the south, heard him.

[Begin recording] [Sofer] Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres said he agreed with Yitzhaq Shamir's assertion a large immigration requires a big Eretz Yisra'el but, Peres said, with peace. Today a country is measured by its GNP, not just its size, Peres explained during a seminar on industrial development in the Negev, conducted in

Beersheba. Speaking about the Likud Central Committee convention next month, which could stop the current peace process, Peres warned any decisions of such a nature could lead to the dissolution of the unity government. Peres also defined the four points for opening negotiations with the Palestinians.

[Peres] It is impossible the State of Israel be characterized by decisions on constraints by the Likud and the Cabinet's later refusal to take any notice of them. One needs either constraints or openness. The Likud's hesitations and tendency to take shortcuts cannot become Israel's policy. In my opinion, negotiations with the Palestinians can be launched if we can agree on four points:
1. That there be two deportees in the Palestinian delegation.
2. That the negotiations should indeed constitute the central issue in the opening of the dialogue; however, anyone wanting to make a speech or two should be permitted to do so.
3. We should be content with the assurances we already have received; additional guarantees will give us nothing.
4. The Palestinians should be allowed to consult with whomever they want.

[Sofer] As for the reports of a forthcoming meeting between Defense Minister Rabin and Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Majid, Peres said such a meeting was not planned in advance; however, he would very much support conducting such a meeting in the United States. [end recording]

Fatal 'Erroneous' Decision Costs Officer Command

TA1701055490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 17 Jan 90

[Text] An Army company commander has been stripped of his command because of what was termed an erroneous decision involving soldiers at the village of al-Janiyah in the Ramallah area 3 weeks ago. The dismissal was ordered by his commanders after the recommendation of Central Command head, Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay.

Military police are conducting an investigation into the circumstances of the incident, in which a local resident was killed.

One Wounded in Husan; Other Incidents Reported

TA1601185290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] A young Arab was wounded today by a plastic bullet near the village of Husan on the road to Hadar Betar. In an initial report, Army sources told our correspondent Arye Gus masked men had been throwing stones at the road, and an Army unit arriving on the scene chased them away. One of the stonethrowers was wounded by a plastic bullet and taken to a hospital. A senior officer currently is conducting a debriefing about the circumstances of the incident.

There were disturbances today in various locations in the Gaza Strip. In the al-Nusayrat refugee camp, soldiers caught a masked youngster inciting activities.

The Civil Administration today closed down six schools in the Gaza Strip that were the focus of riots, and two more schools will be shut down tomorrow.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 1800 GMT on 16 January adds: "Palestinian sources today reported another march by masked uniformed youths in the casbah market area of Nabulus."]

Update on Palestinian Fatalities in Intifadah

TA1701074190 Tel Aviv HA'OLAM HAZE in Hebrew 17 Jan 90 p 6

[Report by Orit Zrubavel]

[Text] On Monday, 15 January, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman did not provide up-to-date information on the number of Palestinian fatalities in the occupied territories.

According to HA'OLAM HAZE's count, the number of Palestinian fatalities is 702.

On the other hand, the Palestinian Data Center for Human Rights reports 848 fatalities, according to the following breakdown:
—620 fatalities from IDF soldiers' and settlers' gunfire.
—82 fatalities from beatings and electrocution.
—7 fatalities from asphyxiation.
—9 fatalities from other causes.

Territories Strike; Hamas Leaflet Attacks 'Arafat

TA1701082090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 17 Jan 90

[Text] There is a general strike in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip today, following orders issued by intifadah leaders. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports the strike includes schools, despite Fatah's calls to excuse elementary school children from the strike. Few workers left for their jobs in Israel.

A Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leaflet attacking Yasir 'Arafat for his readiness to recognize Israel was disseminated in the Gaza Strip.

'Awn Summons Press Association for Meeting

NC1601160190 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] General Michel 'Awn has summoned the members of the Press Association to meet with him in B'abda Palace at 1700 today, asking them to bring representatives of all the information media in the eastern area, or else be held responsible.

Issues Communique on Use of Titles

NC1601130890 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] Dear listeners, the information minister [Michel 'Awn] has issued the following communique:

Despite the fact that more than 2 months have passed since the Chamber of Deputies was dissolved; despite the fact that all that has occurred since 4 November 1989—the elections, the formation of a government, the making of appointments and similar acts of occupation—is considered null and void and nonexistent because it has proceeded from a party without official status; and despite the fact that those who participated in implementing the provisions of the al-Ta'if agreement are deemed to be—in light of the Chamber of Deputies' dissolution—in the position of usurpers of power, imposters, and collaborators with the occupation, some audio, printed, and visual media are still conferring appellations and titles that suggest that the presidency, prime ministership, speakership of the Chamber of Deputies, posts, and positions that the occupation established beyond the pale of the constitution, the law, and Lebanese and international norms are legitimate. They also confer the title of president of the Republic on former deputy Ilyas al-Hirawi, that of prime minister on Dr Salim al-Huss, and the titles of minister or deputy on some former deputies who are collaborating with the occupation. They are doing this in violation of the laws and in defiance of the will and sentiments of the vast majority of the Lebanese people.

In light of the fact that the media's continued use of this policy is regarded as a recognition of the legitimacy of the occupation's tools and consequently constitutes an encouragement to cooperate with them, all the media are asked to adhere to the contents of this communique in implementation of the laws which govern such situations, and in keeping with the people's will, national responsibility, and the professional conduct that characterizes pioneer journalism. The communique has ended.

The editorial staff of Radio Free Lebanon are suspending the transmission of newscasts while they consider how to deal with this communique.

Radio Newscasts Suspended

NC1601124290

[Editorial Report] (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic at 1145 GMT on 16 January carries a 3-minute announcer-read communique issued by the information minister stating that some media are continuing to use titles conferred by the occupation authorities, including the title of president for "former deputy" Ilyas al-Hirawi, and the title of prime minister for Dr Salim al-Huss, "in violation of the laws and in defiance of the will and sentiments of the vast majority of the Lebanese people." The radio does not name the information minister, but (Clandestine) The Lebanese Radio in Arabic, which carries the same communique at 1200 GMT, refers to "Minister of Information General Michel 'Awn."

The communique asks the media to observe the requirements set out in the communique, in accordance with the law, the people's will, and national responsibility.

The radio then carries the following announcement: "The editorial staff of Radio Free Lebanon are suspending the transmission of newscasts while they consider how to deal with this communique."

Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic at 1215 GMT on 16 January carries the same communique by the information minister and then makes the following announcement:

"In light of this, the Voice of Lebanon's editorial staff, after being notified of this communique, is studying it carefully and thoroughly. For this reason, they will not be able to continue to transmit newscasts until they decide how to deal with this communique."

Soldiers Surround Radio Station

NC1601210890 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] A security source in the Lebanese Forces has reported that soldiers of rebel officer Michel 'Awn surrounded the Lebanese Broadcasting Corporation in Juniyah this evening.

Radio Stations Queried on Status

NC1601135490 (Clandestine) The Lebanese Radio in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] The Ministry of Information has issued a statement reaffirming the circular issued by Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn in his capacity as minister of information, and requesting the owners of mediumwave and FM radio stations to lodge the necessary documents at the temporary premises of the Ministry of Information in Fanar [in East Beirut] on the status of their stations and to fill in the necessary official forms for the purpose of regulating the status of these stations. The deadline for the submission of these documents is 18 January. Legal measures will be taken against those who fail to submit such information. For further information, the Ministry of Information in Fanar can be contacted during office hours on 484241 and 484242.

News Agencies Reportedly Comply

NC1601172790 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The news agencies operating in the eastern area have complied with the communique and refrained from calling the president, the prime minister, the speaker of Chamber of Deputies, the ministers, and the deputies by their official titles.

Al-Hirawi Comments on 'Awn's Media Measure

NC1701112290 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1030 GMT 17 Jan 90

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi has declared to Muhammad al-Ba'labakki, chairman of the Press Association, that the state will not reciprocate with any measure similar to that taken by Michel 'Awn, but will keep the doors open to all media. He emphasized the state's total respect for the freedom of information throughout Lebanon, without any distinction between one area and another. He noted that the state will prevent any resort to a police-state system.

Meanwhile, a meeting took place shortly before noon today at the headquarters of the Press Association in al-Rawshah, attended by al-Ba'labakki and a number of media, political, and party figures. The meeting was held to adopt a unified position toward 'Awn's measure and his threats.

Al-Huss Sees 'Awn as Danger to Homeland

NC1701105490 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon GMT 90

[Excerpts] 'Awn's unjust and repressive decision against the media in the eastern area has been received with ridicule and has led to a wait-and-see attitude in the eastern area. The two major radio stations there continue to refrain from broadcasting news bulletins, stressing that they are studying ways of dealing with the situation. [passage omitted]

Commenting on the repressive measure, Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss has stated: Freedom of the press is one of the sanctities of this society. During a meeting with representatives of the media establishments and journalists, al-Huss referred to 'Awn's actions, saying: What is tragicomic about this man is that while he invokes the law he is the first to violate it. He sings the praises of freedom when he is the first to slay it. If this is his concept of freedom, then this is the utmost limit of bankruptcy. Al-Huss added: You are free to support, revere, and glorify him. He is also free to control your destiny. You are free to criticize him if you want but you had better leave your home, area, and homeland first.

In conclusion, al-Huss said: We very simply reiterate that this man constitutes a danger to the fate of the homeland and people. He has gone so far as to tamper with the sanctities of this society.

Further Reaction to 'Awn's Media Communique

NC1701081090 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0530 GMT 17 Jan 90

[Excerpts] Mouths have been muzzled and talk has been forbidden in the eastern area. The freedom crisis erupted in the area yesterday following General Michel 'Awn's decision which provides for silencing those media which recognize legitimacy. The private radios in the eastern area refrained from broadcasting newscasts as of noon yesterday in protest at the communique which 'Awn issued requesting the visual, audio, and printed media to stop acknowledging legitimate status by using appellations, titles, and positions when referring to the president, prime minister, ministers, deputies, and other officials. [passage omitted]

The Lebanese Broadcasting Corporation [television station affiliated to the Lebanese Forces] and other media have also stopped broadcasting news. The news agencies based in the eastern area have submitted to the instructions in 'Awn's communique and refrained from attributing titles to the president, speaker, prime minister, ministers, and deputies. [passage omitted]

The Al-BAYRAQ and AL-ANWAR newspapers are abiding by Gen 'Awn's decision. Their issues that appeared this morning complied with his directives. The AL-DIYAR newspaper has not yet been received. Al-NAHAR, which is based in West Beirut, did not appear today in protest against 'Awn's decision.

According to the Middle East correspondent of the British Broadcasting Corporation, the officials in charge of the Voice of Lebanon and Radio Free Lebanon and the political groups supervising these two radios resent 'Awn's decision and maintain that his policy has led to the isolation of the eastern sector from the rest of the homeland and most of the Arab world.

Army Bans Reporting on Al-Yarzah Command

NC1601141690 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Communique issued by the Army Command Guidance Directorate in West Beirut]

[Text] Although over 1 ½ months have passed since the appointment of a new army commander, some local newspapers continue to publish reports, statements, and declarations pertaining to the army command in al-Yarzah.

While emphasizing that the so-called al-Yarzah command, which has been using this designation contrary to the law, has no legal or legitimate rights, the army command warns the newspapers and the other media against publishing anything that is attributed to the al-Yarzah command or covering any of its activities and news, otherwise they will be held responsible and subject to judicial prosecution. The command calls on all the information media not to publish reports related to the

military establishment before ascertaining their authenticy from the appropriate quarter at the Army Command Guidance Directorate in [West] Beirut, which can be contacted on telephone numbers: 868700, 868701, and 866029.

'Awn's Cabinet Rejects Government Appointments

NC1201160890 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 12 Jan 90

[Text] The cabinet held a lengthy meeting under General Michel 'Awn at B'abda Palace today. In a statement issued after the meeting, the cabinet saluted the Lebanese citizens in France who rejected the recent diplomatic appointments and staged a sit-in at the Lebanese Embassy in Paris to express their allegiance to the sole national legitimate authority. The cabinet also praised all those who declined the positions offered them and refused to accept any job under occupation.

The cabinet called on all Lebanese ambassadors and diplomats abroad to refuse to hand over their embassies and to consider the measures and appointments issued by the occupation government [al-hukumah al-ihtilaliyah] as null and void.

The cabinet warned that anyone who cooperates with the measures adopted by the usurpers of power will be referred to special courts on charges of cooperating and collaborating with the occupation.

Concerning the suspension of customs law approved by the occupation government, the cabinet called on all departments and organizations to continue to work in accordance with existing Lebanese customs laws. The cabinet decided to consider any act outside the framework of these laws as a smuggling operation designed to steal the state's resources and to license smuggling, which serves the aims of occupation.

The cabinet approved the measures to be taken regarding the Central Bank. These measures will be announced gradually and in accordance with the requirements of the situation.

Regarding wages, the cabinet approved in principle an increase in wages for the public and private sectors. The rates of increase will be defined in a decree to be issued later.

'Awn Addresses Delegations at B'abda Palace

NC1301193190 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 13 Jan 90

[Text] At B'abda Palace, Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn has asserted that the Lebanese people are unified in their resistance to occupations and in their continuous endeavor to win freedom and build their future.

Addressing popular delegations that visited him today, 'Awn said: Our hand is always stretched out to the people, not to the agents and traitors who deal with the occupier. He noted that the fate of these agents will be black. He added: The end of everyone in the world who has stretched out a hand to an occupier or a usurper has been the grave or banishment.

Although we have postponed the day of solidarity with the north to next week, yet this week is the week of the north, he asserted. If there is anyone who is not convinced that the occupier should go, I say that we must force him to flee. We will make the life of the occupier and the usurper hell wherever he may be, he stated.

He said: Anyone in Lebanon who implements an order from the alleged government of occupation or honors its appointments, whether in Lebanon or abroad, will be considered an agent, forbidden to stay among us. An agent is usually referred to the judiciary and is ostracized by society on social, human, and national levels.

General 'Awn also addressed delegations that visited him this afternoon. He said: We do not need agreements for withdrawal. It is we who will force the enemy to withdraw from our country. We do not want to go to al-Ta'if, Paris, or the United Nations. Anyone dealing with the occupation is a traitor. We practiced a kind of a civilized peaceful protest which was a sit-in. We said in this sit- in that we are demonstrating our conviction and belief and expressing our demand for our rights. This is a non-violent act and contrasts with the methods that were used against us.

'Awn added: I would not be surprised if the occupying Syrians cause disturbances in the north when they learn that a peaceful strike will take place in that region. The aim of the Syrian actions will be to accuse the civilians there and arrest them. I do not rule out now any attempt to oppress and arrest the young people of Tripoli and Shikka on charges of creating problems, using this as a pretext to put the people in prison. This is how their oppressive methods operate. He added: This was their method in Ba'labakk and in the Southern Suburb, and now in Shikka and Tripoli, so that the people will be kept suppressed and immobilized. Now, the Lebanese people are demonstrating that they are not afraid. They are staging sit-ins and expressing their opinions even if they are being oppressed. If they continue to oppress the people, then the people will turn to resistance by violent means. We are applying civilized means. We are for peace and against violence. We are not lambs for slaughter. We have teeth that hurt more than the lion's teeth do.

Amal Members in Birri Death Plot Reported Shot

PM1701110090 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 16 Jan 90 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Amal Executes Four Members Who Planned To Assassinate Birri and Leadership Members"]

[Text] Sidon (Lebanon), AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—The Amal Movement in southern Lebanon foiled an assassination attempt on the movement's leader and minister, Nabih Birri, and members of the movement's leadership 5 days ago.

According to informed sources, Amal security organs discovered the assassination plan shortly before the time set for its implementation, and they executed four of the culprits, one of whom was called Khalil Bazzi.

The sources added that three of those involved in the preparations for the assassination managed to escape.

The sources also said that the four who were executed admitted under interrogation that they had links with an organization hostile to Amal, that they had received funds and arms, and that they intended to assassinate Birri and his leadership staff at the movement's headquaters in al-Bisariyah in southern Lebanon.

They revealed that the group intended to carry out the assassination by planting explosives in the headquaters and then detonating them while the Amal leadership was in session, or to carry out a surprise attack using pistols fitted with silencers.

Meanwhile, the Amal Movement's security organs have detained 50 Amal members on the charge of establishing relations with Hizballah, receiving funds from it, and supplying it with information about Amal's military moves.

Informed sources say that some of the detainees face many charges, including collusion with Hizballah and revealing to Hizballah some of the military positions in the current fighting in Iqlim al-Tuffah east of Sidon.

Al-Huss Asks France To Evacuate Lebanese Embassy

LD1701111790 Paris Domestic Service in French 1100 GMT 17 Jan 90

[Text] The government of Salim al-Huss is reported to have asked France to have the Lebanese Embassy in Paris evacuated, by force if necessary. It has been occupied for the past week by supporters of General 'Awn, the Christian general.

Meeting Between PLO, Syrian Officials Expected

LD1601184290 Kuwait KUNA in English 1636 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] Beirut, Jan 16 (KUNA)—A meeting between Syrian security officials and Palestinian figures loyal to PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat is expected to take place soon, according to Palestinian sources.

The sources said mediators close to the 'Arafat's mainstream Fatah organization and Syrian security officials in Lebanon had covered a lot of ground regarding the proposed get-together between the two sides.

They added that the first endeavour to hold such a meeting had collapsed after the recent eruption of fighting between pro-Syrian Amal Movement and pro-Iranian Hezballah organization.

The move is seen as an indication to improved relations between the Syrian leadership and 'Arafat.

Army To Intensify Patrols, Set Up Roadblocks

NC1601130990 (Clandestine) The Lebanese Radio in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Communique issued by the Army Command's Guidance Directorate; date not given]

[Text] On the instructions of Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn and in order to put an end to the recent increase in thefts and robberies, officials from the various security departments of the Lebanese Army and the internal security forces held a meeting at which it was decided to intensify patrols and set up roadblocks in the liberated areas to prevent attacks on people and property and to apprehend suspects.

Citizens are asked to contact the nearest security post immediately if they have any information that may help in the implementation of the abovementioned security tasks.

Junblatt, Birri Discuss Iqlim Al-Tuffah Fighting

NC1601125590 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] Progressive Socialist Party leader Minister Walid Junblatt and Amal Movember leader Minister Nabih Birri held a 3-hour meeting at the house of former Minister Marwan Hamadah today. Hamadah, Akram Shuhayyib, and Ghazi al-'Aridi also attended the meeting.

Sources said that there was an identity of views regarding the need to end the fighting in Iqlim al-Tuffah and deploy the forces of Lebanese legitimacy, represented by the national army, in the area. The two agreed on the need to consolidate the national position, revive the activity of the national front, and coordinate efforts within the government to deal with the partition situation in the eastern area by all effective means.

President Al-Hirawi on Arab Tour, Army

NC1401212190 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 14 Jan 90

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi has emphasized that he plans to tour Arab countries and that the date for this tour will be fixed after the Arab tripartite committee meeting. He said that the purpose of the tour is to try to secure Arab aid that had been earmarked for Lebanon. He said that this aid will be the basis for financing development projects, especially water, electricity, and telephone projects.

He said that the process of preparing the army is proceeding well and that the army commands will be gradually organized so as to ensure a capable republic. He noted that the command will not abandon the military in any area. After cadet officers have been recruited, a decision will be made to appoint a chief of the general staff of the army.

President al-Hirawi stressed the need for an end to what the situation in Iqlim al-Tuffah. He said that the fighting there encourages rebellion and the partitionist schemes.

He expressed regret over the weakness of national awareness in some citizens who are going along with General 'Awn's policy, which obstructs the work the government is carrying out to establish authority and regain sovereignty, according to the al-Ta'if agreement.

Walid Junblatt Reelected PSP Leader

NC1301142590 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 13 Jan 90

[Text] The General Congress of the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] opened in B'aqlin at 1000 today with 791 delegates from various areas present and 164 delegates absent. The congress opened with the Internationale, which was adopted as the PSP's anthem. PSP Leader Walid Junblatt delivered a political speech, which was then discussed in detail. The constitutional amendments were then read and approved unanimously.

The congressional session was chaired by Walid Junblatt and steered by a preparatory committee. Walid Junblatt was unanimously reelected PSP leader. The congress approved an amended draft of the Constitution, the most important amendment being the abolition of the Central Committee and the reversion to the Assembly of Guides [jum'iyat al-murshidin]. The names of the guides were announced. At the end of the congress, the session minutes were read and the session recessed at 1305. The Assembly of Guides will meet this afternoon to elect a chairman and nine Political Bureau members. The PSP leader has the right to elect seven members. We have learned that the appointed members, who have won absolute confidence, are Durayd Yaghi, in charge of the foreign relations bureau; Bilal 'Abdallah, in charge of the organizational affairs department, Lieutenant Colonel Raja Harb, in charge of the mobilization affairs department; Ghazi al-'Aridi, in charge of the Information Affairs Department, Bahij Abu-Hamdi, in charge of the the Economic and Financial Affairs Department; Hisham Nasir-al-Din, in charge of the Administration and Public Affairs Department; and Lt Col Sharif Fayyad, secretary general. Farid Jubran was also appointed chairman of the Assembly of Guides.

Al-Husayni Meets Saudi Minister, Sa'adah in Paris

NC1601181490 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni arrived in Paris today via Damascus to meet with the deputies present in Paris to discuss with them ways of ensuring the necessary quorum for holding parliamentary sessions. Immediately after his arrival in Paris, Al-Husayni headed for the Saudi Embassy, where a meeting was held with Phalangist Party leader George Sa'adah and Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal. They reviewed the outcome of the Arab committee meeting in Algiers yesterday.

After the meeting, Sa'adah said the Saudi minister had talked about the possible call for convening an extraordinary Arab summit on Lebanon, but he did not specify the date for this summit.

Ibrahimi Departs for Damascus 14 Jan

NC1401164090 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1530 GMT 14 Jan 90

[Text] Lakhdar Ibrahimi, Arab tripartite committee envoy, left Lebanon today at the end of a short visit and on the eve of a meeting of the Arab ministerial committee, according to an informed source. The same source said Ibrahimi departed for Damascus, where he will meet with Syrian officials before flying to Algiers to attend the meeting by the foreign ministers of the tripartite committee member-states slated for tomorrow, Monday.

Ibrahimi, who arrived in Beirut on Friday night, met President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Prime Minister Salim al-Huss, Chamber Speaker Husayn al-Husayni, Acting Mufti Shaykh Muhammad Rashid Qabbani, and an envoy of Patriarch Nasrallah Sfayr. In the north today, Ibrahimi attended the ceremony commemorating the 40-day anniversary of the assassination of President Rene Mu'awwad.

USSR Reportedly To Withdraw Military Advisers

NC1601073490 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] The Kuwaiti newspaper AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM has disclosed that Syria has reached agreement with the USSR on the withdrawal of Soviet military advisers from Syria. The paper reported that approximately 2,000 Soviet advisers were in Syria last year and that the number was subsequently cut by half. The decision to withdraw the advisers comes 2 months after a statement attributed to the Soviet ambassador in which he said that the new reality in Moscow requires that the USSR reduce its military supplies to Syria.

Minister Denies Reduction of 'Soviet Experts'

JN1601125890 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] Syrian Information Minister Muhammad Salman has categorically denied news agency reports on the reduction of the number of Soviet experts working in Syria. He dismissed as baseless all that was said about this subject.

Ministry Summons Turkish Envoy on Euphrates Water

JN1501203490 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2000 GMT 15 Jan 90

[From "Panorama" program]

[Text] An informed source in Damascus said today that the Syrian Foreign Ministry has summoned the Turkish ambassador in the Syrian capital and informed him that it does not agree with the principle of cutting off the Euphrates River waters and that it views this as a violation of international law. Syria also affirmed that cutting of the Euphrates River waters is an unjustified precedent that will inflict various forms of damage and will seriously affect drinking water, irrigation, and electricity generation.

Sources Reveal Details of Bush Letter to Al-Asad

JN1501164690 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 5 Jan 90 pp 1, 23

[By Ra'id al-Khammar]

[Text] Damascus—Sources here have revealed the most important points in U.S. President George Bush's letter to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad regarding developments in the Middle East issue and the Lebanese crisis. They also revealed the most important points in the Syrian response. The U.S. letter to Syria was delivered only days after the U.S. intervention in Panama.

The sources said that Bush's letter included three specific requests, "which Washington hoped Damascus would adhere to" in order to maintain the developing relations between the two countries.

The first request was in the form of a U.S. wish that Syria would not resort to force or support any move to launch a major military onslaught against General 'Awn's troops, in order to give the tripartite Arab committee a new opportunity to continue its political mission, which may result in a satisfactory settlement of the crisis of Gen 'Awn and the officers supporting him.

Damascus answered this point by asking about the time necessary to render the political efforts exerted by the tripartite committee a success. It also expressed its concern over the fact that the delay in settling the 'Awn question may lead to Lebanon's partition. In its answer, Damascus also pointed out that 'Awn was the first to resort to force and is clinging to B'abda Palace without any legal grounds. On the need to resort to force at certain times, Damascus gave the example of the United States sending its troops to back constitutional legitimacy in the Philippines and its use of force against General Noriega in Panama.

The second request was related to the Palestine question. The U.S. President asked President al-Asad to exert efforts to end the stalemate in the Palestine question. Damascus answered that "our position has not changed, especially since our policy in this regard is firm." It urged the need for convening the international conference, attended by the UN Security Council permanent members and all sides to the conflict. Damascus pointed out that it has not yet seen any change or flexibility from the Israelis to warrant the Syrians making "positive gestures." On the contrary, it saw only Israeli procrastination and persistent efforts to end the intifadah, which has moved world opinion.

The third issue raised by Bush's letter concerned "international terrorism" and the blowing up of the U.S. plane over the British town of Lockerbie in December 1988—an operation that Washington accuses Ahmad Jibril's Popular Front [for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command] of perpetrating. The letter pointed out that Washington has material evidence that the operation was planned on Syrian territory and that some of those who perpetrated it also left from Syrian territory. The letter asked for Syria's help in apprehending those responsible. It also asked for helping the U.S. judiciary pursue them.

The Syrian response asserted that Damascus is against all forms of terrorism, especially "terrorism" against civilians. As usual, the answer distinguished between "international terrorism" and the legitimate struggle to regain legitimate rights.

Damascus also asked Washington to provide evidence of the involvement of Jibril and his group. It said that if it became certain of their involvement, it would take a "distinguished position" and will be prepared to punish any person or party whose involvement in the "Lockerbie operation" is confirmed.

U.S. Stand on Zionism Resolution 'Grave Mistake'

JN1701070090 Damascus SYRIA TIMES in English 10 Jan 90 p 6

[Article by R. Zayn: "Defence of United Nations Resolutions, a Legitimate Demand"]

[Excerpts] In the middle of last month, American Vice-president Dan Quayle said that the U.S. would ask a number of countries to join its stand of adopting a new decision at the United Nations General Assembly, which provided for abolishing the Assembly's resolution which considered Zionism as a racist movement. Quayle pointed out that this very movement "is a national liberation movement of the Jewish people." The Vice-president justified his country's stand by claiming that rescinding Resolution No. 3379 would enhance the possibility of establishing peace in the Middle East and would enable the UN restore its so-called moral occupation. [as published]

The political background of the current American pro-Zionist stand is naturally governed by the nature of the sinister alliance existing between the U.S. and Israel. But what is surprising was America's justification and its connotation which are based on groundless assumptions. Did Zionism change its racist nature so that the international community is called upon to change its judgement on Zionism as a racist movement? Was Zionism really a national liberation movement, and did the UN Assembly commit a mistake in issuing Resolution No. 3379 and should now rescind this very Resolution in order to restore its moralistic occupation?!! [passage omitted]

Henceforward [as published], the United States of America has committed a grave mistake in working to rescind Resolution No. 3379, especially when the racist core of Zionism has not changed. Therefore, defending this very Resolution and foiling attempts to rescind it are a legitimate demand with a view to enabling peoples to uproot the evils of racism, settler colonialism and neo-colonialism.

Radio Views Damascus-Cairo Rapprochement

JN1601121590 Damascus Voice of Arab Egypt in Arabic 1900 GMT 15 Jan 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Brothers in Egypt and the Arab homeland: Arab unity was, and will always remain, our daily bread. It was, and will remain, our protector, fence, and weapon to overcome obstacles. At every station and turning point in Arab history, Arab unity was our companion. Different generations have pinned their hopes on the ship of Arab unity, set the sails, and directed that ship toward the future. At difficulties, the call for Arab unity and solidarity became a distress call, urging all those who love this great homeland—of whom there are many—to answer the call.

We are living through difficult circumstances these days. There are some who constantly carry out aggressions against the threads of hope we weave on the path of pan-Arabism. That aggressor wants Egypt to be away from those paths and wants Syria to be away from them too. It also wants each Arab country to become weaker than the other, so that we will lose every hope. Therefore, we fight the experience of the difficult pan-Arab task in order to protect our pan-Arab decisionmaking and destiny. Arabs achieved much when bridges of solidarity, cohesion, and unity existed. They lost much every time they [passage indistinct].

History shows that the historical tie between Damascus and Cairo was always the most important event. That tie also massed our nation's resources and strengthened them with sacrifice, hope, and ability to face challenges. Damascus and Cairo were always a major pan-Arab weight feared by the enemies and a force which constitutes—together with effective Arab solidarity—a weapon of deterrence against hostile desires.

The agreement and brotherhood between the two fraternal countries today translates the masses' hopes and answers the call of pan-Arabism at this difficult time, in which our nation is in dire need of solidarity, interaction, unity of wills; and in which our nation must walk side by side on the path desired by the masses toward the future they dream of. Syria and Egypt are starting this difficult task which emerged from the different pan-Arab experiences.

The Arabs' battles, interests, and objectives are the same. The things linking us together are hundreds of times greater than those separating us. Based on this task and on Arab solidarity, hopes will be revived, resolution will be strengthened, and more sacrifice will be made. Also, a pan-Arab climate will emerge—a climate in which every Arab longs to live as a strong, proud, and free man.

Our strength lies in this climate. In this climate, the Arab nation can race against the clock, go along with all progress in the world, achieve its pan-Arab objectives, deter any aggressor, and liberate its usurped rights and territory. It is a hope which every Arab citizen has the right to dream of. In spite of this, the enemies have not even spared this pan-Arab hope from their conspiracies. It is natural for us to expect any form of conspiracy and plot against this hope, which is going through its birthing process following the Damascus-Cairo rapprochement.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Address on Peshawar-Based Shura

LD1501213390 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 15 Jan 90

[Radio and television address by President Najibullah on 15 January—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful.

Dear compatriots: For some time there have been rumors saying that the seven formations based in Peshawar intend to embark on elections to establish a shura and form another government. The formation of such shuras and governments is nothing new. For example, I remember that in Jawza 1367 [month ending 21 June 1987] an interim government led by Engineer Ahmad Shah was formed in Pakistan by that country's military intelligence which was [word indistinct] all legal credibility. Then in Howt last year, with the initiative and under the direct control of Pakistan's military services, a consultative council [words indistinct].

It is common knowledge that the majority of the commanders inside the country were not invited to join this consultative council. Some refused to participate in it. The alliance of eight based in Iran boycotted it. The refugees in Iran and Pakistan and Afghans resident in Europe and the United States were given no right to participate. A few of those who took part boycotted it after realizing the [words indistinct] nature of this shura. Finally, as a result of pressures by the Pakistani authorities, 14 people from among the very close friends and relatives of the leaders of the alliance of Seven were chosen to form an interim government. So it is easy to see that the consultative council of Rawalpindi and the ensuing government that was formed did not even represent the opposition forces themselves of the Republic of Afghanistan.

My compatriots have seen how during the last year that government, as a tool in the hands of foreigners and aggressors, has shown its anti-Islamic and antinational nature. In order to install the made-in-Pakistan government on the territory of Afghanistan, Pakistan's military intelligence devised a plan to attack Jalalabad city, of which the made-in-Rawalpindi government had no advance notice. In order to implement the foreigners' plans, the armed extremists opposition was used involuntarily as tools in the war of aggression and to bring the state of the Republic of Afghanistan to its knees by military means.

Some leaders of the so-called government wanted to express their appreciation for the support by the Pakistani authorities by proposing a plan for the official recognition of the borders. Others talked about a merger of Afghanistan with Pakistan under the title of confederation. Unfortunately, yet others wanted to pay their dues to the Saudi authorities by propagating Wahhabism in Afghanistan.

Despite the efforts of the United States, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and their other international supporters, differences among the heads of the seven parties have intensified to the point of bloodshed, and consequently none of the seven parties agreed to merge their party organizations in the Rawalpindi government. Many internal commanders associated with the organizations disobeyed the instruction of the heads of Peshawar-based organizations and the so-called interim government, especially during the Jalalabad offensive. The infamy of the Rawalpindi government, because of the disagreement of the heads of the organizations on a specific political program and their repeated military defeats, became so glaring that the real founders and backers of that government, the United States and Pakistan, lost hope and refused to recognize it.

It was not long before some heads of the organizations participating in the Rawalpindi government were making statements on the lack of credibility and illegality of their own so-called government. One of the organizations even boycotted it. Consequently, any attempt to patch together the bankrupt government of Rawalpindi led to more disunity and differences. So the only way left was to dump that government and to make efforts to set up another shura and government that could allegedly represent a unity.

The failure and defeat of the fresh coalition are evident right now, because the majority of the Afghan people, inlcuding most armed opposition groups inside the country, the Iran-based coalition, and Afghans living in Europe and the United States, will not participate in the planned elections. How can a shura and a government enjoy legality and legitimacy when they do not represent everyone and are convened abroad under the direct control and supervision of foreign governments? So, even if such a shura and government were formed, not only would they not be a step toward the realization of the greatest desire and demand of the Afghan people—the cessation of war and the restoration of peace in the country—but they would also contravene the spirit and letter of the resolution of the 44th UN General Assembly session which wants negotiation and diaogue among the involved Afghan sides. The broad road of peace can be opened up only through negotiation, understanding, and agreement among all political forces for the formation of a broad-based coalition government, not through unilateral action and the establishment of parallel shuras and governments on foreign soil.

Dear compatriots, today coincides with the 3d anniversary of the declaration of the national reconciliation policy in the Republic of Afghanistan. In this period many actions have been taken to implement reconciliation and to ensure peace in the country: The new Constitution has been approved; parliament has started

work; the law on the formation and activities of political parties has been brought into force. Political pluralism has come into existence; the monopoly of power by one party or political organization has been removed; and a number of plans and policies have been implemented in line with Afghanistan's national interests. Thousands of prisoners connected with various opposition groups have been pardoned and released; specific measures have been taken to provide the necessary facilities for returnees; and the Geneva Agreements have been signed. The Soviet forces have withdrawn.

There have been many proposals for talks and understanding with the opposition inside and outside the country. The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan proposed a new peace plan that conforms with the existing realities of the country and which recognizes the right to participation of all political Afghan forces with the mechanism of its practical implementation. The proposal not only does not reject the participation of all involved parties but it guarantees the formation of a coalition government with a broad social base as an instrument of the formation of new elected government. In response to all those peace-loving measures by the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan over the last 3 years, the other side not only has not taken the slightest step to ensure peace but it has stubbornly insisted on its warmongering and irreconcilable position.

We can say clearly that when all paths are practically open for negotiation and talks, the formation of a shura and government on foreign territory will contribute only to discord among Afghans and a continuation and intensification of bloodshed. The state of the Republic of Afghanistan believes that a meli shura of all Afghans can be formed inside the country and must be with the participation of all Afghan political forces. So we propose that an extensive shura of the elected representatives of all Afghan political forces in and out of the country should be held in Kabul city in the presence of UN representatives.

The state of the Republic of Afghanistan guarantees the personal safety of all representatives and freedom of their activities for this purpose. Of course, the main task before this shura will be to seek a just and realistic political solution to end the war and bloodshed in Afghanistan. This national nationwide aspiration will not be met without reconciliation and understanding among the lawful interest and demands of all sides involved in war and ensuring the just role and part of each of the forces in the future administration of the country.

If the leaders of the formations based in Peshawar do not give a positive response to this honest and peace-seeking proposal of the Republic of Afghanistan which conforms fully with the tenets of the sacred religion of Islam, and again ignore the interest of the Muslim people of Afghanistan which is embodied in ending war and ensuring peace, the responsibility for its consequences will rest entirely on them.

We wish that Almighty God will grant all Afghans the will and ability to unite with a good will and sound mind, for the national interest of Afghanistan and to end the catastrophe of war. Success comes from God.

Spokesman: 70 Percent of Rebels Not Fighting

BK1501161290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1602 GMT 15 Jan 90

[Text] Kabul, Jan 15 (AFP)—The government said Monday [15 January] that 70 per cent of mujahidin rebels in Afghanistan had stopped fighting because they were convinced the war was meaningless after Soviet troops withdrew 11 months ago. About 30,000-40,000 mujahidin, who had battled the might of the Soviet Army for 10 years, were still fighting, Foreign Affairs Spokesman Mohammad Naqib Sameer said.

He said hundreds of small commanders had either negotiated cease-fires with troops of the Soviet-backed government of President Najibullah, had stopped fighting or were in the process of negotiations or contacts with the government. He conceded that the government had failed to woo any big-name resistance commanders such as Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, who operates in the country's north, and declined to reveal the names of any of those who signed agreements with the government, saying that they were to be kept confidential by agreement.

"We think finally that they will come to the same conclusion (as those who have stopped fighting) that this war is meaningless after the Soviet troop withdrawal," he said.

The process of national reconciliation announced by President Najibullah on January 15 three years ago had made "significant gains," Mr. Naqib said. But he acknowledged that the president's calls for the mujahidin to join a broad-based government with his People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) had fallen on deaf ears.

Mr. Najibullah has proposed various groupings and limited regional autonomy to local commanders fighting for the mujahidin, but the rebels' Pakistan-based interim government, formed after the withdrawal, has spurned the offers out of hand, saying the Najibullah government is a Soviet puppet and must go.

Some five million Afghan refugees fled to Pakistan and Iran during the soviet Troop presence, most of them to avoid devastating bombing raids.

Officials in Washington, which along with Saudi Arabia and Pakistan backs the mujahidin, have also conceded that about four-fifths of local mujahidin commanders inside Afghanistan have stopped or scaled down their attacks on the government since the withdrawal.

Mr. Naqib also said that since February 15 last year, when the Soviet withdrawal was completed, mujahidin fighters, most of them operating out of Pakistan, had launched more than four million rounds of heavy weapons fire including artillery in offensives against cities and towns, mostly in the east.

In the offensives against such cities as Jalalabad, Qandahar and Khowst, more than 2,700 civilians had died and another 5,700 had been injured, he said. He declined to give government military casualties, saying only that they were in the hundreds. Thousands of mujahidin had been killed in the same period, he said.

'Extremists' Fire 5 U.S.-Made Missiles at Kabul

LD1601180890 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] The Pakistani-backed extremists today fired five U.S.-made surface-to-surface missiles at Kabul city's residential areas. The military section of the BIA reported that two of these missiles were U.S.-made cluster missiles, which scattered 98 antipersonnel mines. They were fired in accordance with the state terrorism plan of the United States and Pakistan. The rest of the missiles were of the Sakr-20 and Sakr-30 type, which were fired contrary to all international standards and norms at residential and populated regions, on the bases of the U.S. and Pakistan state terrorism plans.

As a result of the fire of these missiles, five of our faithful Muslim compatriots were injured and were taken quickly to the hospital, where they are under intensive treatment. These missiles caused heavy material losses. The scattered mines around the area hit by the missiles were neutralized by the security organs with the assistance of the people.

'Rebels' Capture Security Posts, Camp Near Khowst

BK1601125890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1240 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Jan 16 (AFP)—Afghan rebels have captured eight security posts and a military camp near the beleaguered eastern town of Khowst after putting it under pressure for six days, the pro-resistance AFGHAN ISLAMIC PRESS (AIP) said Tuesday [16 January].

U.S.-backed mujahidin guerrillas said they made further advances Sunday night north of Khowst, but the Soviet-backed regime in Kabul claimed in a overnight report that the resistance attack had been repulsed.

AIP said the Moslem guerrillas shifted pressure to the northern side of the town and launched a surprise attack Sunday night, capturing the posts and the camp in the Mashghora area 12 kilometers (seven miles) from the town.

Khowst is 35 kilometers (22 miles) from the Pakistani border.

They captured five government militiamen, several soldiers, two tanks and some machineguns, the news agency said.

Six mujahidin guerrillas were killed and 12 were injured during the fighting, it said, adding that "a lot" of government soldiers had died but the exact figure was not available.

Small-scale fighting continued in the south and southwest of the town, AIP said.

The guerrillas intensified their operations around Khowst last Wednesday, overrunning three posts four kilometers (2.5 miles) west of the town before staging a "strategic withdrawal," AIP said.

On Monday night, Radio Kabul, monitored here, said that government forces had "repulsed" the attack, killing "585 extremists."

With winter hampering the guerrillas' mobility elsewhere in the country, fighting is continuing in regions bordering Pakistan. The mujahidin have not captured any major city since Soviet troops completed their withdrawal from Afghanistan 11 months ago.

'Top Afghan General' Visits Khowst 'Defenders'

BK1701010090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1631 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] Kabul, Jan 16 (AFP)—A top Afghan general visited the embattled eastern city of Khowst a day before mujahidin resistance fighters launched their second attack in a week on the city's outposts, a government spokesman said Tuesday [16 January].

The spokesman made no mention of a mujahidin statement on Monday that a government bomber had been shot down while striking back at the attackers in the Gari area, some 35 kilometers (21 miles) southwest of Khowst.

He said Major General Assadullah Payam, political chief of the Ministry of Interior, flew into Khowst on Saturday to convey a special message of gratitude from President Najibullah to the city's defenders.

The mujahidin offensive, which started Thursday with ground, artillery and rocket attacks, resumed on Sunday with further rocket and artillery strikes on city defensive outposts and outlying garrisons, he said.

The mujahidin lost 585 killed, wounded or put out of action when the government responded to both attacks with artillery fire and heavy bombings, the spokesman said.

Afghan television Monday night showed some of the corpses lying outside the defensive perimeters of some of the posts, but it was impossible to determine the numbers.

"It (Khowst) is now the hottest spot (in Afghanistan)," the spokesman said.

He said government casualties had been officially given as nine killed and 19 wounded.

Exchanges of heavy weapons fire were also reported from the provinces of Qandahar and Nangarhar, also in the country's east, where further heavy bombing around the city of Jalalabad had left 60 mujahidin casualties, he said.

In Kabul, shrouded under a new blanket of snow, heavy outgoing artillery, rocket and scud missile fire could be heard Monday night and Tuesday morning.

The government spokesman said most of the fire was directed at suspected mujahidin rocket positions in the Paghman mountains on the outskirts of the city.

Najibullah Grants Interview to French TV Team

LD1601063290 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0424 GMT 16 Jan 90

["Najibullah Received French TV Team"—BAKHTAR headline]

[Text] Kabul, Jan. 15, BAKHTAR—Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan [RA] [passage indistinct] Palace a French television team for an interview.

A BAKHTAR correspondent reported that President Najibullah talked on politico-military situation in the country, realisation of the national reconciliation policy, its gains and peaceful proposals of the state of the RA and responded to the questions raised by the said team.

India

Gujral: No Change in Concept of Nonalignment

BK1701140490 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 17 Jan 90

[Text] The union minister for external affairs, Mr I.K. Gujral, says India will not interfere militarily in any country under any circumstances. Mr Gujral was addressing a press conference in Bombay today. He said there will be no change in India's concept of nonalignment formulated by Jawaharlal Nehru.

Referring to India-Pakistan relations, the external affairs minister said that a high-level delegation from Pakistan will be arriving in India on the 21st of this month to discuss bilateral issues. Regarding press reports about some political leaders from Pakistan's Punjab Province supporting terrorist activity in India, Mr Gujral said that Pakistan prime minister should take steps to prevent such problems.

The minister said India wanted to improve its relations with all neighbors, including Pakistan, China, Sri Lanka, Nepal, and Bangladesh.

Mr Gujral said India was very much in favor of Afghanistan and Burma joining the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation.

Indian-Pakistani Nuclear Facility Pact Ready

BK1301061090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0435 GMT 13 Jan 90

[Text] All formalities with regard to the exchange of instruments of ratification of the India-Pakistan agreement on prohibition of attack on each other's nuclear installations has been completed by both the countries. Disclosing this, the Indian High Commission in Islamabad has said that the instruments of ratification will be exchanged at a mutually convenient date as early as possible.

Our Islamabad correspondent, Suresh Chopra, reports that the agreement is subject to ratification and shall come into effect from the date on which the instruments of ratification are exchanged.

CPI-M: East Europe Events Setback for Socialism

BK1601093590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] The CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] has described the developments in Eastern Europe as a setback for world socialism. The party's politburo, which met in New Delhi, said distortions and deviations from the principles of socialism and violation of inner party democracy had resulted in the recent events. It said that some forces are trying to restore capitalism under the garb of reforming socialism.

The CPI-M also expressed deep concern over the ethnic conflicts in the Soviet Union.

In a resolution on the situation in Sri Lanka, the politburo urged the government to ensure that peace is restored in Tamil-dominated areas in the northeastern parts of Sri Lanka along with the deinduction of the PKF [Peacekeeping Force].

Governors Resign in Response to Singh Letters

BK1601160690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] The governors of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Haryana have resigned. Mr Vekatasubbaiah, Miss Kumud Ben Joshi, and Mr H.A. Barari submitted their resignations in response to the letters received from the president asking them to step down.

The prime miniser, Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh, has indicated that only some of the governors, whose resignations have been sought by the president, will be asked to quit. He was talking to newsmen on board the IAF [Indian Air Force] aircraft while returning to Delhi after a 2-day visit to Maharashtra. When asked if all the governors will be replaced, Mr Singh said some changes may be made.

The Congress-I has accused the National Front government of politicizing the insitution of governors. The party general secretary, Mr V.N. Gadgil, told newsmen

in New Delhi today that those who criticized the previous government for having made political appointments have now politicized the very insitution of the governor.

Governors of Goa, Kerala, Orissa Resign

BK1701075090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 17 Jan 90

[Text] The governors of Goa, Kerala, and Orissa have resigned. Mr Khurshid Alam Khan, Mrs Ram Dulari Sinha, and Professor Nurul Hassan have resigned in response to the letters received from the president asking them to step down.

Our Trivandrum reports that Mrs Ram Dulari Sinha is sending her resignation letter through a special messenger to New Delhi to hand it over to the president this afternoon. Our Bhubaneshwar correspondent reports that Professor Nurul Hassan is sending his resignation letter tomorrow.

Kashmir Official Rejects Talks With 'Militants'

BK1701074190 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] The Jammu and Kashmir chief minister, Dr Farooq Abdullah, has said that Kashmir's accession with India is final and settled. In an interview to our correspondent Shamsuddin Shamim in Srinagar, Dr Abdullah ruled out any talks with the militants on the issue.

[Begin recording] [Shamim] Any indications of talks with the militants?

[Abdullah] As far as talks with the militants are concerned, what do you talk to militants about? The first and foremost thing is they must leave the path of violence. They must shed guns; they must shed terrorism or terror that they are trying to put into people. That is one point. Second, there can be no talks as far as accession of Kashmir to India is concerned. That has been settled for good. No power on earth can change that. That must be clear to them. Third, if there are any grievances—whether unemployment, whether any backwardness in the state—those things can be looked into. But as far as talking to terrorists, I want to tell them once and for all, Farooq Abdullah is not going to talk to them. I have made up my mind; I am not the person to talk. If they have to find any [word indistinct] of talking, they have to create that atmosphere first of remembering that we are to live here, we have to die here, and we want to have peace. We do not want people to suffer. I am not interested in the suffering of the people, and they cannot continue with this for long. [end recording].

Dr Farooq Abdullah, who flew into Srinagar from Jammu today, will spend some days there to oversee the normalization process. A number of his cabinet colleagues have also reached Srinagar to take on-the-spot decisions to speed up the work.

Curfews, Bombings Reported in Jammu, Kashmir

BK1601075090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, day curfew has been lifted in Anantnag, Baramula, Sopor, and Bandipura, while in Srinagar it has been relaxed from 0500 this morning till 1730 in the evening.

Two bomb explosions occurred in Srinagar, damaging a branch of the State Bank of India in Rajbagh area. The subversives set on fire two school buildings in Makhdum Saheb and Rainabari. In Baramula Town, a post office was partially damaged in a bomb blast.

Left Parties Urge Law, Order in Kashmir

BK1601035490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] The left parties have charged the Jammu and Kashmir administration with failure to meet the challenge of the disruptive forces so far. At their meeting in New Delhi, the leaders of the CPI [Communist Party of India], CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist], Forward Bloc, and RSP [Revolutionary Socialist Party] said this has emboldened the separatist elements, who have intensified their activities with the backing of Pakistan and imperialist agencies. They expressed the view that the Farooq [Abdullah] government should take immediate and firm measures to restore law and order in Srinagar and other places.

Bomb Blasts, Arson Reported in Kashmir Valley

BK1601161690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, the day curfew was lifted in Baramula, Sopor, Anantnag, and Bijbiara towns. In Srinagar, the relaxation in curfew was given from 0500 to 1730 today.

Reports of bomb blasts and arson have come in from various parts of the valley. In Nawab Bazaar, Srinagar, unidentified people fired some rounds at a CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] camp yesterday evening. However, no one was injured.

In Jammu, a procession was taken out today by a number of social and religious organizations and the Bharatiya Janata Party, demanding prompt and effective measures by the state and central governments for protection of the minority community in the Kashmir valley. A 13-point memorandum was later submitted to the state governor, General K.V. Krishna Rao, by leaders of the coordination committee of these organizations.

The state chief minister, Dr Farooq Abdullah, has ruled out talks with the extremists unless they shun terrorism and accept Kashmir's accession with India. In an interview with Doordarshan in Srinagar today, he said the problem of Kashmir is settled for good and he is not going to talk with them on this issue. Dr Farooq

Abdullah said he will probe recent acts of arson in several parts of the Kashmir valley.

Police Disperse Mob in Karnataka; 3 Killed

BK1601030690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] In Karnataka, 3 persons were killed and 16 others, including a senior police officer, injured when police opened fire to disperse a violent mob in Gulbarga city yesterday. According to the police, the mob indulged in stone-pelting, arson, and looting. The mob was protesting against the alleged death of a person in police custody on Sunday before it turned violent.

A senior police officer told our Bangalore correspondent this morning that the situation in Gulbarga is well under control. Prohibitory orders have been promulgated in the city for 5 days. The state government has announced 20,000 rupees compensation to the family of each of the killed and 500 rupees to those injured. A magisterial inquiry has also been ordered into the incident.

Mann Group Demands Polls; Violence in Punjab

BK1601032890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] The Akali Dal-Mann has reiterated its demand for early elections to the Punjab Legislative Assembly and the SGPC [Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhaka Committee; Sikh Temples Management Committee]. It has also demanded adequate representation to the party in the district-level grievances committees in the state. The party spokesman, Mr Gurteg Singh, told newsmen in Chandigarh that these demands were voiced in a memorandum to the governor.

Addressing a meeting at Muktsar in Faridkot District on Sunday, the party president, Mr Simranjit Singh Mann, said he and his colleagues would attend the next Lok Sabha session and also take the oath before it.

Meanwhile, a senior leader of the All India Students Federation-Manjit group and a former member of the federation, Mr Sukhwant Singh, were shot dead by an unidentified assailant in Mansa Town of the Bhatinda District in Punjab last evening. When chased by some people, the assailant managed to escape after throwing away his revolver.

In Amritsar District, an explosion took place on the Amritsar-Jullundur section of the railway track near Bakala when a goods train passed late last night. The explosion damaged about a 2-meter line of the track. The traffic, which was disrupted following the explosion, has been restored since early this morning.

Iran

President Reportedly Escapes Assassination Try

JN1701091090 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0900 GMT 17 Jan 90

[Text] Informed Iranian sources in Tehran said Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani had escaped an assassination attempt early this month. The attempt was made by one of his own bodyguard.

President's Sermon Urges Judicious Resource Use

LD1201182590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1120 GMT 12 Jan 90

[First Friday prayers sermon delivered by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani in Tehran on 12 January—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] I consider it a big fault when, in an Islamic state, the land of Imam 'Ali, our Iran, where we have so many resources, for our merchants, our holy men, our practicing believers to go to the bazaar to buy foreign curency and then sell it for 2 tomans more; or to buy refrigerators and hoard them so that they can sell them for 2 tomans more, the next day.

The foreign currency so used should be converted into mineral, agricultural, and industrial goods for the sake of Imam 'Ali's Shiism, for the sake of the Islamic state. [crowd chants]

As the country's chief executive and your elected president, I declare that the policy of your chosen government is based on placing the country's resources—that is, land, water, minerals, industries, etc—at the disposal of the public, so that the people can devote their whole being, resources, and capital to developing the land of Imam 'Ali.

Of course, in the process, we may still come across some misguided, deviant, ignorant, and narrow-minded officials who might create obstacles. However, you must resist; the government, too, must resist, and develop the land of Imam 'Ali using the life of Imam 'Ali himself as our model. And if we do so, we will also be free and independent. [crowd chants]

In this respect, while our independence depends on our productivity, hard work, and development I consider it a virtue—and faith in God dictates—that anyone who has any skills, whether technical, physical, managerial, or financial to use them for the development of our Islamic land. And God willing you will do so. We, the government, will also be at your service. [crowd chants] [passage omitted]

Khamene'i Says Islamic Zeal Cause of Azeri Events

LD1701100190 Tehran IRNA in English 0850 GMT 17 Jan 90

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 17, IRNA—Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i Wednesday said "the world today is proceeding towards Islam and this is not a slogan but a reality".

Speaking to a group of visiting women, the leader referred to the recent "Islamic zeal" of Soviet Muslim Azeries and noted, "it is a big blunder to think that ethnic and national motives are behind this move."

"These sentiments," Ayatollah Khamene'i added "are Islamic and have their attractions for one-billion world Muslims."

The leader warned against any miscalculated and unskilled attitude towards these sentiments. "The Soviet leadership, by making a revision in its old policy, has displayed a praise-worthy bravery. Muslim people are allowed to express their faith and heartfelt belief. These Muslim brethren who for the past 70 years had been forcefully kept away from Islam, are once again showing their Islamic feelings. We attach great importance to their Islamic sentiments."

The leader urged the Soviet leaders not to make a wrong analysis of these feelings which might result in taking a harsh and improper attitude towards them.

"This is Islam and Islam will not be extinguished. Islam is neither aggressive nor oppressive rather it commands observance of justice and equilibrium. The Islamic community all over the world is fond of justice and equity. Therefore, the attitude towards world Muslims should be based on justice and equity. This is the great objective of Islam."

The group of women visited the leader on the eve of the birthday anniversary of Hadhrat Zahra (AS) [God's peace be upon her], daughter of Prophet Mohammad (SAW) [peace be upon him], which is marked as Woman's Day in Iran, Jan. 18.

Reportage, Comment on Soviet Border Events

Soviet Envoy Briefs Va'ezi

LD1601180790 Tehran IRNA in English 1645 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 16, IRNA—Soviet Ambassador in Tehran Vladimir Gudev today briefed Deputy Foreign Minister for Euro-American affairs Mahmud Va'ezi on the latest development in Soviet Azerbaijan.

He said, a state of emergency has been declared in some parts of the Caucasus including Azerbaijan since Monday to "defend people's lives and put an end to the ethnic bloodshed."

Gudev, referring to the "prudent" stance taken by the Islamic Republic on the Azerbaijan issue, announced that the Soviet deputy foreign minister is to visit Tehran to finalize agreements on necessary facilities for cross-borders travels between the two neighbours.

Soviet Azerbaijanis who share a common religion, language and culture with their bretheren in Iran, are demanding facilities for visiting the Islamic Republic in order to make pilgrimage to holy sites and to see long-separated families and friends.

Va'ezi, who was in Moscow last week, expressed "concern" over news reaching from the Caucasus. "We believe," he added, "peaceful settlement of disputes and paying attention to people's demands will avert any violent clashes," he told the Soviet ambassador.

He emphasized Iran's foreign policy principle of "non-interference in other's internal affairs" and thought that any kind of violence was bound to have detrimental impacts on the current developments. The Iranian official laid stress on self-control in settling the affairs peacefully.

In view of its good relations with Moscow, said Va'ezi, Tehran is ready to make the maximum efforts for helping the Soviet Union resolve the present problem. He also expressed readiness to establish bilateral cultural ties, in order to facilitate cross-border travels.

The Islamic Republic hopes that the problems besetting the region would be solved through "prudent and peaceful" policies so that the people could live in peace.

Soviet Delegation To Visit

LD1601131790 Tehran IRNA in English 1257 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] Ardabil, East Azarbayjan Prov., Jan. 16, IRNA—A high-ranking Soviet political delegation is to visit Iran later this month, according to Baku television last night.

It said the delegation, including officials from the Republic of Azerbaijan, will hold talks on mutual relations and ways of removing some unnecessary border regulations to facilitate exchange of tourists between the two countries. It also said that border dwellers in the Republic of Azerbaijan would soon be able to visit Iran.

Protest on Soviet Border Noted

LD1401043690 Tehran IRNA in English 1545 GMT 13 Jan 90

[Text] Jolfa (Azarbayjan-e Khavari), Jan. 13, IRNA—Over 1,000 Muslims of Soviet Azerbaijan, braving the freezing weather and chanting 'Allah-o Akbar' (God is the greatest) held a peaceful gathering across this border town, yesterday.

Soviet border guards in military uniforms stood aloof at a distance watching the three hour gathering, during which their Muslim compatriots including women and

children shouted Islamic slogans and sent messages in Azeri to their relatives across the River Aras in Iran.

Roughly the same number of people of this border town stood on the Iranian side of the river, cheering and responding to their brethren from the Soviet Union.

The Soviet Muslims also threw coins and other small articles as gifts on the other side of the river.

People on both sides of the Iran-Soviet border have strong historical links sharing a common religion, language and culture.

Soviet Azeris Cross Aras River

LD1601132490 Tehran IRNA in English 1255 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] Pol Dasht, East Azarbayjan Prov., Jan. 16, IRNA—Braving a state of emergency declared by Moscow on the border strip of the Soviet Republic of Azerbaijan and Iran, more than 30 Muslim Azeris have crossed the Aras border river and arrived here since early Tuesday. They said they had crossed the river to visit their relatives and get acquainted with Iranian life style.

Meanwhile, sporadic gatherings by Soviet Azeris who were standing along the river bank until 15:00 hours local time [11:30 GMT], were held.

Soviet Azeris Continue To Arrive

LD1701084890 Tehran IRNA in English 0612 GMT 17 Jan 90

[Text] Pol Dasht, East Azarbayjan Prov., Jan. 17, IRNA—Soviet Azeri Muslims who cross the border River Aras (Araks) continued to arrive in Pol Dasht and Zanganeh regions of the East Azarbayjan Province Tuesday.

More Soviet Azeris are pouring into the area crossing the river by boats and other floating objects.

A group of 36 Soviet Muslims who had reached the Iranian side of the river during the past few days, returned home Tuesday.

The latest group who arrived here are mainly put up at a stadium equipped with the necessary facilities.

Muslim Azeris Return to USSR

LD1001115690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, six more Muslims of the Soviet Union's Azerbaijan Republic—who had entered Iranian territory during the last 2 days by crossing the Aras River in the Pol-Dasht region of Maku—returned to the Soviet Union yesterday carrying with them several volumes of the holy Koran, as well as portraits of his holiness the imam [Khomeyni] and His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, all of which were gifts from the people.

Three of those people were inhabitants of regions of Shahtakhti, Irvak, and Dizaj—in the Nakhijevan area of Soviet Azarbayjan.

Editorial on Spread of Islam

NC1201173390 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 7 Jan 90 pp 1, 12

[Mohammad Sarafraz editorial: "Iran and Soviet Azerbaijan"]

[Excerpts] The roots of faith can never be removed from among the Muslims. This is a fact which the Soviet Muslims are now reaffirming. The 70-year atheistic campaign in the Soviet Union, which has spanned two generations, could not obliterate belief in God and the prophet from among the Muslim-inhabited republics of the Soviet Union. Today the Soviet Muslims want the removal of all barriers to faith; they want to achieve a pure Islam which fortunately has not been stunted by Saudi Islam or Wahhabiism.

With the crumbling of the system of Marxism and the future problems of Western-style democracy, Islam will spread quickly as the most emancipating and strongest ideology which can govern the world. Undoubtedly, sooner or later, Western-style democracy's true visage as a deterrent to the freedom of nations will be exposed. [passage omitted]

The Soviets have become aware of the intense leanings and inclination of the Azerbaijani Muslims toward Islam, the Islamic leader, and Islamic injunctions. There were demonstrations to remove the barriers; the Soviets embarked on a quick expedient by seeking to control the demonstrations. This was done in the hope that the crisis might be transferred to this side of the border, so that eventually the people would forego their desire for the "cradle of Islam." Witnesses say that the Nakhijevan military forces cooperated with the demonstrators in most cases.

By implementing a new policy, Gorbachev has attained massive victories in foreign policy, especially in Europe, but he seems to be faced with numerous problems within the country. His economic reforms have been unsuccessful and political freedoms have generated problems. [passage omitted]

The Russian empire is ailing as regards its structure. An ideological hiatus, the absence of an economic model, and a vacuum in the system of government will lure the people of the annexed republics toward the new patterns of government that are being sought in the wake of the decline of Marxism. Naturally the people of the Muslim-inhabited republics, who have seen and endured nothing but duress, penury, suffocation, and a campaign against religion are seeking what they have lost, for which they will not hesitate to brave fire and water. The Soviet Muslims, especially the Shiites of the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic, are aware of what they have lost and will not rest until they have reached their objective.

In any case, the subject will be linked to our national security and can only be resolved in a subtle manner and with foresight. The presence of dozens of oil wells and much fertile agricultural land in Soviet Azerbaijan adds to the importance of the issue.

First of all, the Islamic leanings of the people on that side of the border cannot be left unanswered. The era of a fruitless struggle against God has come to an end and the epoch of conveying the message of Islam, which should not on principle encounter the opposition of the Kremlin, has arrived. Two decisive factors would be the exchange of religious delegations and the boosting of the media.

It is an important point worth stressing that the Islamic Republic of Iran will not remain indifferent to the fate of Muslims. What is more important is that it should be admitted that Islam has the power to govern various societies.

Commentary on Political Developments in Turkey

NC1201115790 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1700 GMT 4 Jan 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Following the political developments in Turkey during the past 10 years, including the partial withdrawal of the military and individuals in the executive branch because of the election of a civilian president in 1989, the present political situation in that country indicates that the opposition parties are moving to weaken the ruling Motherland Party in their favor. As such, the opposition parties are trying to have general elections held before 1992.

In addition to focusing attention on the political rivalry in Turkey, the political parties believe that a new foreign policy should be adopted in light of the wave of political changes in Europe and in light of the needs of the Turkish people. One of the most clear indications of this is the stand opposition parties adopted against the Turkish Government. The opposition parties strongly criticized the government for voting against the UN General Assembly [UNGA] on the question of the U.S. military attack on Panama, and thus voting in favor of the United States. While many of the countries in the General Assembly condemned the U.S. military attack, Turkey cast a negative vote against the UNGA resolution, which called for the condemnation of the United States. Turkey was among 20 countries which voted against the resolution.

True Path party leader Suleyman Demirel, who is a former prime minister, strongly attacked the Turkish Government's decision and described the U.S. attack on Panama as conflicting with international principles and rules. Demirel said: If a country believes it has the right to organize a military attack on a foreign country to oust the leader of that country just because it does not like him, then similar attacks in other parts of the world are possible.

It has been reported that the support given by the Turkish Government to U.S. imperialism's military attack on Panama was the result of efforts by the U.S. ambassador in Ankara. Ambassador Abramowitz recently met with Turkish officials a few times on the question of Turkey's recognition of the new government in Panama, a U.S. puppet. No one doubts that the United States wishes to move its NATO allies in the direction of its imperialist policies. However, in view of the wide-ranging political changes in Europe and the existing relations between the United States and Turkey at the governmental level, the opposition parties have indicated they are convinced a different line of policy must be established. The political developments in Europe indicate that the unity of Western Europe, which is based on NATO, may weaken in the near future. Consequently, the NATO countries, including Turkey, may be compelled to pursue an independent policy. This view is also supported by the state officials in Turkey. The dispute between the Ministry of Defense and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Turkey on the use of the NATO air base near Konya is a clear indication of this state of affairs. Turkey is expected to be more careful and reconsider the matter in the future.

Turkish Officers Detained for 'Religious' Reasons

NC1001092690 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1700 GMT 4 Jan 90

[Text] Approximately 300 officers and noncommissioned officers affiliated with the Turkish Air Force command were detained for religious activity in the past 4 months. According to the newspaper CUMHURIYET, the officers were described as extremist elements and accused of engaging in reactionary activity. They are being detained at the Air Transportation Committee Command, which is affiliated with the Air Force command. [sentence as heard]

Thirty officers were expelled from the army for engaging in religious activity and establishing links with religious parties in July 1989.

Proposal for Ties With Pakistan, Turkey Condemned

PM1201153590 Tehran KEYHAN HAVAI in Persian 27 Dec 89 pp 11, 22

[Editorial by Khosrow Taleb-pur: "Three-way Cooperation and the Revolution's Principles"]

[Text] A three-way cooperation between Iran, Pakistan, and Turkey which goes beyond the framework of the Economic Cooperation Organization [ECO] is what has been suggested by Mr Larijani, the former deputy foreign minister. In an article Mr Larijani explains the basis for his proposal in this way: Iran, Turkey, and Pakistan are

tied together by different strands, each of which has its roots in the culture and religion of the free peoples of these lands. What has separated these three huge Islamic countries is distance from their glorious Islamic roots. I feel that the United States is playing a major role in lessening this three-way cooperation because keeping the region away from Iran is now a major policy being pursued by the Americans. The Turkish Government's true safe haven is Islam. Something that is bound to become clear in the near future is the fact that old policies have to be reconsidered. So any serious effort toward expanding the three-way ties and strengthening them, on the basis of truths that are already known and will become even clearer in the future is considered a serious consideration in our foreign policy.

In another article he wrote: I think that air, sea, and land maneuvers should be held jointly by the armed forces of Iran, Pakistan, and Turkey.

Mr Larijani's remarks are very important even apart from the fact that they could might have an effect on the country's foreign affairs circles. Acting on these suggestions could create basic and fundamental changes in our foreign policy, compared to the policies of the past 10 years.

Although he has glossed over most of his points—perhaps because of the nature of the proposal—he has nevertheless spoken clearly and openly. Each of the points brings about many questions, and it is surprising that the articles have not drawn any reaction in the local press.

It is also surprising for an experienced and knowledgeable diplomat of Mr Larijani's caliber to think only of the common links between the peoples of Iran, Turkey, and Pakistan and discuss the necessity of organizing an Islamic and three-way cooperation front without considering the differences that exist in the three countries' policies. Especially Turkey: If we look at the actions, the policies, and the cultural and political trends in that country within the past 10 years it becomes very clear that Turkey, for historical reasons and also because of the nature of its rulers, has always looked toward NATO and the West. Its biggest dream is to complete its economic and political dependence and join the EEC. If the Turkish people's safe haven is Islam, unfortunately the safe havens of its present rulers are the United States and the capitalist systems of the West.

During what period of its past history, or even during the recent period when there has been a revival of Islam in this region, has Turkey's political makeup shown a tendency toward Islamic values, for us to be able to point to it as a general trend? In fact quite the opposite is the case. The Turkish government's actions in the past 10 years have shown Muslims under pressure and denied their rights and a sharpening of weapons against Islam and Islamic movements. Has it not been the same behavior by the Turks, despite tolerance from our economic and foreign policy officials, that has brought about the ups and downs in our bilateral relations recently?

Like every other Western government faithful to NATO and the capitalist system, the Turkish Government has been afraid of a resurgence of Islam, especially since a large proportion of its population are Muslims. It is because of this same section of the population that the regional interests of Western capitalists could be threatened. The military coup in Turkey, undertaken by the West after the Islamic Revolution in Iran, was staged in order to strengthen stability in that country in the face of the dangers from the Islamic Revolution.

Could it be that Mr Larijani, who is an experienced diplomat, has overlooked the most basic political factors such as the political and military dependence of Turkey and Pakistan on the West and NATO? Could it be that he has overlooked their importance in the U.S. regional policies, especially with regard to the Islamic Revolution and the Soviet Union? Could it be that he has placed no value on these factors? It is highly unlikely.

In any case, even if the common factor linking the peoples of Turkey, Pakistan, and Iran, which is Islam, is the only basis on which this strange and at the same time suspicious and dangerous policy is drawn, why has there been no mention of this same common factor regarding Iran's relations with Arab nations? Why does this scenario not include political and military cooperation with the countries bordering the Persian Gulf? A careful look at this issue shows that Mr Larijani has not wanted to reveal all his thoughts and ideas which brought this scenario about.

A while ago, in a speech carried by the RESALAT newspaper, Mr Larijani said that the Arab nations on the Persian Gulf wanted to form an "Arab front" against the Islamic Revolution. He added that we must try to cause dissension within that front. So it seems that the formation of an islamic front with Turkey and Pakistan is proposed in this connection. Perhaps the Arab nations do want to form a front against Iran—which looking at Iran's current position in the region would be a false analysis. Could the formation of another front be effective? Without a doubt, no, because for one thing it would give legitimacy to the Arab front and would mean that their differences would be overshadowed by an even bigger, and foreign, set of differences. Even then we must suppose that the Arab countries would regard themselves enemies of Iran, Pakistan, and Turkey and disregard their political and military ties with them, especially with Pakistan.

Second, the formation of such a front would mean that the balance of action would be tipped toward the United States and its strategy against the Soviet Union and the Islamic Revolution, keeping in mind the fact that the two elements, Pakistan and Turkey, coordinate their political and military actions in line with that of the United

States. That way we would become the instigators of someone else's policies. We would also destroy the revolution's principle of neither West nor East in the region and in the world as a whole.

In any case we should not enter into such actions, according either to Mr Larijani's policy of regarding Iran as a source for other Islamic nations, or the "Medina" policy of Mr Yazdi—who was foreign minister in the provisional government. Because Iranian military and political cooperation with these nations calls into question both the "source" policy of Mr Larijani and the "Medina" theory of Mr Yazdi, since these countries' politico-military policies are clearly in line with those of the United States in the region and since they have always benefited from the political and military help given by NATO for their role in the area.

If the "source" policy means keeping the Islamic Republic of Iran as a source of inspiration for the Islamic world and Islamic movements, such cooperation damages its reputation, especially when it comes to Turkey, which sees its global anti-Islamic face as a passport to gain entry to the EEC. On the other hand, in order to sell the scenario of cooperation with Turkey and Pakistan, it is not enough to use the old phrase and say that it is against U.S. policy. What proof is there that it is U.S. regional policy to cause a rift between Iran, Pakistan, and Turkey? Quite the opposite: All Western propaganda has centered on the fact that Iran will now undertake actions such as the proposed three-way cooperation in its internal and external political and economic arena so that the West can be sure that Iran has abandoned its hard-line anti-American policies of the past 10 years and that it is looking to show its goodwill to the United States. This is the reaction for which the Americans and the Westerners are waiting. George Bush in his recent remark mentioned the same thing regarding his wish for a positive reaction from Iran.

The last point to make is if the Islamic Republic picks up on ideas such as the three-way cooperation and distances itself from the revolution's prinicples, then it will present a different image to the world. That way it will lose its true base of support, which is the Islamic and revolutionary potentials of the people. It will then be forced to accept the outward signs and elements of power from East and West and have to rely on their policies in the region.

The Islamic Republic must rely on its Islamic and revolutionary principles and must ot join the dependent policies of other nations. It must safeguard itself from having to bow down under the pressures of the time and existing conditions. That way it will be able to take an independent position whenever events such as Salman Rushdie or any other incident threaten the revolutinary nature of the Islamic Republic. Three-way cooperation and the formation of, fronts, even in the name of Islam, will only increase the Islamic Republic's dependence and force it to cooperate with other nations—and that is the least of the dangers presented by such ideas.

Culture Minister on Reassessment of UK Ties

LD1601172390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] The Ministry of Culture and Higher Education announced that should England continue its creation of obstacles and deportation of Iranian students, the Islamic Republic of Iran will reconsider all its cultural and scientific ties with that country.

Mr Mo'in, minister of culture and higher education, in his meeting yesterday with Iranian students deported from England, announced the above news. He further expressed his ministry's readiness to provide any kind of assistance to those students. He considered the recent racist move by the English Government as among the rash moves of that colonialist government in the face of the rejuvenation of Islamic identity and thought, in particular after the resolute decree of his holiness the imam—may his dust be sanctified—on the issue of Salman Rushdie. He further considered it in line with the long-standing grudge of the old man of colonialism [UK] against the Islamic belief of Muslims.

UK's 'Immoral' Treatment of Students Deplored

LD1001185190 Tehran IRNA in English 1600 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 10, IRNA—The Majles' Foreign Relations Committee today deplored the 'irresponsible and immoral' treatment of Iranian students in Britain by the London government.

Following a meeting with students recently expelled from Britain, the committee asked the Foreign Ministry to press London to release detained Iranian student Mehrdad Kowkabi. Kowkabi's family was also present at the meeting.

In a provocative move, British police detained several Iranian students following the December 15 mass demonstrations staged by British Muslims at over 1,000 mosques throughout the U.K. on Britain, to voice support for the late Imam Khomeyni's death decree against the apostate Salman Rushdie, who authored the blasphemous novel 'The Satanic Verses.'

With world Muslims determined to carry out justice, Salman Rushdie with a price on his head, is in hiding in Britain, since the fatwa [religious edict] was issued February last year. London's shocking attitude to the Satanic affair, led to breaking of its ties with the Islamic Republic in March 1989, after a week-long ultimatum from the Majles.

KEYHAN Criticizes Foreign Ministry's 'Silence'

NC1001213490 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 20 Dec 89 p 2

[Commentary: "Diplomatic Silence"]

[Text] Following the auspicious ceremonies in 1,000 mosques during which 300,000 British Muslims declared their solidarity against "The Satanic Verses" on 15 December, the British police raided the house of four Iranian students in Manchester and arrested one Iranian student in London charged with forming a group to assassinate the atheist author of the said book. This arrest was justified according to the law which permits any suspect to be detained for 7 days without any reason!

A letter of protest by the Majles deputies condemning the British police for its savageries was published. It demanded that "our country's Foreign Ministry" take necessary and immediate steps against this act. Supporting this letter, the Majles speaker warned during yesterday's session that if the British Government does not change its position on Muslims and if it does not apologize for its recent acts, the wave of the Muslims' protest will go beyond the British borders and the voice of protest of 1 billion Muslims in the world will be heard.

Even though the officials of our country's Foreign Ministry were expected to issue a statement in support of Friday's ceremonies and at least to carry out their duty as the Foreign Ministry of the "source of Islam" as a show of solidarity with Britain's Muslims, nevertheless this expectation was not fulfilled and the ministry remained silent.

News agencies reported yesterday afternoon that the students arrested by the British police have been released, that the British Home Office has ordered the expulsion from England of two other Iranian students named Kamran Abrinia and Mehrdad Kowkabi, and that there is no information on the situation of a fifth student.

It is the duty of our country's Foreign Ministry officials to remember that their main mission is to support the Muslims of the world when they "hold diplomatic meetings aimed at defending national interests." At a time when the call for Islam has gone beyond the borders of Iran and the hopeful eyes of millions of Muslims have turned to our country, it is our and our officials' duty to react correctly, and by opportunely expressing sensitivities, to help the buds of this desire for Islam grow and bloom.

Majlis Questioning of Foreign Ministry Viewed

NC1301124190 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 3 Jan 90 p 2

[Unattributed commentary: "The Spade and the Question"]

[Text] The following joke went around during the questioning period by 84 Majlis deputies: A person was badly burned with his hands, legs, face, and head also bleeding and badly injured. He was taken to the doctor who, amazed, asked him how he got burned. Those who brought him said that he had tried to set himself on fire. The doctor then asked: Why is he so badly injured as well? They said: We tried to put out the fire with a spade!

This joke conveys the bitter charade involved in solving problems in the Third World. In general, it is customary that if a country experiences a crisis, attempts are made to minimize the crisis and reduce it to a simple issue; if there is a simple issue, it is most often ignored. However, when we have a problem, we magnify it into a crisis and then we put out the fire burning our hands and feet with a spade. We transform the things we should overlook into problems.

A living example of this is the question from the foreign minister. We all witnessed the fact that he was questioned yesterday. This did not in any way weaken the Foreign Ministry, but it eliminated all ambiquities regarding the dismissal of the Iranian ambassador in Romania. This interrogation did not tarnish the system's image in any way. Those who wished to silence the deputies with questions and a spade later apologized and withdrew their questions.

It would be appropriate if these people revised their position. We should recall the words of Imam Khomeyni, who said: Those who think that eliminating one person will harm the system should go and pray that there should be no God! This system does not depend on individuals, so why do some people feel that perpetuating the system depends on not questioning a minister or ministry?

Today the most appropriate and lucid principle of our system is the support of the leader of the revolution. The velayat-e faqih [rule of the supreme jurisconsult] is the axis of our Constitution and of the Islamic Republic system. Why should we behave in a way that indicates some group or individuals have doubts regarding the principle? For example, today a deputy said that most Majlis deputies believe in the velayat-e faqih and the leadership, and the deputies rightfully criticized him.

We should be vigilant, and we should try not to transform minor issues into major crises. We should not transform simple issues and phenomena that can be overlooked into important and crucial issues.

TEHRAN TIMES Urges Review of Foreign Policy

NC0901110790 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 3 Jan 90 p 5

[Akhundzadeh Basti commentary: "Foreign Policy Review a Must"]

[Text] There have been many definitions for diplomacy in contemporary world. The most common and accepted version defines it as an art. With this definition, it is, for functional purpose, the art of accomplishing certain objectives, in its best possible form within available resources.

Indeed it is a finical task. In modern world the rapid advancement of science and technology, particularly on telecommunication, brought about a revolutionary change on the flow of the information.

The immediate effect of this change is felt on the conduct of the diplomacy. For the simple reason that the information constitutes the raw material for the artist in the diplomatic arena. [sentence as published]

Generally speaking information is a free commodity that anyone can procure by simply putting on the receiver.

But if the invalid information 'misinformation' [as published] is fed in and the assessment or the 'art of making' are based on it, everything goes wrong and becomes ugly.

This is what happened on Ceausescu's visit to Iran.

Experts, non-experts, even the laymen on the streets termed it as a monumental mistake of the Iranian diplomacy.

But what can be done to prevent it happening again?

The admission of the mistake on the side of the policy-makers could be the first. In the conduct of diplomacy, and that of a revolutionary country no one could claim entirety. [sentence as published]

A review of the foreign policy on recent years could help to pinpoint the difficulties and rectify it.

The elements of professionalism and quality should find its place in the conduct of diplomacy.

A series of enquiries to find out what went wrong and how to prevent a repetition must be made.

ETTELA'AT Editorial Compares Noriega, Ceausescu

NC1201104990 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian
26 Dec 89 pp 1, 3

[Editorial: "Ceausescu and Noriega"]

[Excerpts] Despite Ceausescu's revolutionary and anti-imperialist facade and his ability to exploit Romania's vital resources in various fields by resorting to Stalinist methods, something which occasionally focused world attention on him, facts have come to light recently which categorically prove that his attractive exterior hid nothing but emptiness.

We do not want to discuss the record of Ceausescu's relations with Israel. Neither do we want to refer to remarks by martyr Mohammad Montazeri who in 1979 at the KEYHAN publishing offices described Ceausescu as a Zionist. To do this would require both time and research. Nevertheless, we can compare Ceausescu and Noriega from various aspects at a time when, simultaneously with the incidents in Romania, we saw how Panama rose to confront the strongest army of the century, U.S. imperialism.

One of the major differences between Ceausescu and Noriega is that despite the direct attacks by a well-equipped and big enemy such as the United States on his city and home, Noriega was able to resist for days and nights. Ceausescu, who was not faced with an attack by a foreign army against his home and country, fell into the hands of his people and army and became their captive.

If Noriega is taken captive and killed, he will still stand tall and victorious even though he does not have an interesting record of struggles. With his captivity and death, Ceausescu's name was added to the list of disgraced people in history, even though some may have paid lip service in the past to his bright record of struggles and political activities.

Ceausescu had been portrayed, at least in a large part of the world, as a capable, independent, combatant, socialist, justice-seeking, and anti-imperialist leader and as the heir to the generation of leaders who were faithful to socialism and workers and so on. [passage omitted]

Noriega defended the interests of his people and stood up to a powerful foreign enemy, while Ceausescu ignored the genuine interests of his people and opened fire on these people who considered the suppressions and pressures of communist governments to be contrary to human nature and who called on him to agree to reforms. This is why there was no need for foreign military aggression for him to be overthrown; his overthrow came at the hands of his own people.

In conclusion, we would like to imagine that we would have been better off if we had invited Noriega instead of Ceausescu, even though both of them were overthrown!

Editorial Denounces U.S. Attack on Panama

NC1001213990 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian
21 Dec 89 p 2

[Editorial: "America and Panama"]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The U.S. Armed Forces' air and ground attack on Panama is so disgraceful and criminal that it can be discussed in length from any of its many aspects.

1. The U.S. attack showed that America does not attach any importance to the freedom of nations and of governments. What is important for it is its interests and hegemony.

2. The U.S. attack showed how ridiculous is the tale of human rights and of anti-terrorism which America is advocating. How can a country which tops the list of aggressors of the rights of nations and of state terrorism make such allegations? Should one look at its tear-stained eyes, or at its blood-stained claws and mouth?

3. The United States is a member of the Security Council and has right of veto. It also hosts the United Nations.

One should see how the United Nations and the Security Council will defend the rights of an oppressed nation.

4. The U.S. attack on Panama has placed is a test for all nations, governments, and countries. Nations can now identify the extent of their governments' dependence or independence and decide what position should be adopted vis-a-vis the United States.

5. If all nations resist U.S. hegemonism like the Iranian, Lebanese, Palestinian, and Panamanian nations, then the Americans will not be able so disgracefully and blatantly violate all international pacts and regulations.

RESALAT Assesses 'Democracy' in Panama

NC1001220990 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 24 Dec 89 pp 1, 12

[Mohammad Sarafraz commentary: "The Way To Establish Democracy in Panama"]

[Excerpts] "America attacked Panama to safeguard democracy." The White House spokesman said this after the U.S. aggression on Panama.

Western democracy is now clearly showing its face to the world. According to Western democracy, two Maronite minorities in Lebanon—one in West Beirut and the other in East Beirut—should rule over the Muslim majority. According to Western democracy, insults to Islamic sanctities are defended ("The Satanic Verses" and its author), while revelations concerning Zionism are prevented and the announcer of Radio Islam in Sweden is sentenced to 6 months in prison. Western democracy cannot tolerate even the sight of a few scarves worn by Muslim students.

Are these supporters of democracy not those who portray any country which establishes a rule which is not favored by them as a country that opposes human rights, and who resort to every possible means to overthrow such rules?

America launched the largest military aggression since the Vietnam war to establish democracy in Panama! It killed and wounded thousands and rendered at least 10,000 Panamanians homeless. This was Washington's Christmas gift to the Panamanian people. [passage omitted]

Last night the United States, Britain, and France vetoed the Security Council resolution condemning the U.S. military aggression on Panama. Britain has always followed the United States in world politics. But why France? Is it because the United States did the same thing for France in Lebanon? Even though the Soviet Government has condemned this act, it cannot ignore the negative impact of its peace-seeking policy! Does the Soviet Union also consider Latin America to be the backyard of the United States? Will not the fact that revolutionary countries in Latin America are not strengthened militarily lead to subsequent U.S. military aggressions? Bush carried out the military attack on Panama immediately after his meeting with Gorbachev.

This is a warning to the Soviet president not to be fooled by America's "political game."

Because of the significance of the Panama Canal, Washington has decided to impose an American-style democracy on Panama. The Panama Canal links the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans, and because of its strategic importance, the United States has stationed 10,000 soldiers there. During the past 2 decades, at least, the United States has been pursuing a policy of "destabilizing" Panama so that it can justify its military presence there; and, since 1968, 43 people have come to power in Panama.

The small country of Panama is now creating a big crisis for the United States—a crisis which will further isolate the leaders of Washington from other nations. But there is another crisis facing democracy. After the crumbling of the Berlin Wall, we should now expect to see the "wall of Western-style democracy" crumble.

Editorial Decries 'Savage' U.S. Action in Panama

NC1101140490 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 23 Dec 89 p 1

[Editorial: "The Biggest Defeat of the Year"]

[Text] The savage U.S. military expedition against Panama and the bloodbath the United States unleashed in this small country speak of the biggest defeat of the Great Satan in the current year.

Regardless of whether this military expedition produces the desired results for the U.S. American leadership, it can automatically be considered Bush's greatest defeat in the first year of his administration. The rare resistance shown by General Noriega, the forces supporting him, and the Panamanians vis-a-vis the bloodshed unleashed by the U.S. leadership has inflicted the greatest disgrace of the year on the leaders of a country that claims to be the greatest advocate of democracy, freedom, and human rights.

No matter what the U.S. military expedition achieves, it cannot compensate for the great defeat Bush inflicted on his country. The unprecedented disgrace that the American leaders have suffered cannot be rationalized in any way. The people of the world, even the most optimistic, cannot believe the misleading slogans of the U.S. leadership about defending human rights and observing international laws and regulations. The intervention by a foreign government in the domestic affairs of a country which does not want to relinquish its independence does not conform with any international law. It is a blatant violation of international law and clearly shows that all the allegations by the Americans were only aimed at misleading public opinion. Even though world condemnation of the Bush administration's military expedition

will not prevent that administration from acting similarly in the future, this incident will be recorded in history so that the coming generations will recognize how empty and misleading the U.S. leadership's slogans are.

A military expedition in a country which has a population of 2 million and which cannot be compared with the United States in any way is not a great achievement for the United States. There are more people in the U.S. Armed Forces than there are in all of Panama. If the United States can only achieve its objective by committing aggression against Panama, then it will only have shown the world that it lacks any kind of logic and that it only deals in the language of force.

It is necessary to repeat at the end of the Christian year that such a disturbing reality does exist in the world. The Christians of the world should think of their fellow Christians in Panama, and on the day when Christ was born the Christians of the world should remember that this Christmas their fellow Christians in Panama were drowning in blood. They should end this year by not forgetting the bloodstained claws of Bush and of his colleagues in Washington, and they should start the new year by thinking of when to tear off the disgraceful mask from the faces of the false advocates of democracy.

The other disgraced party in the Panamanian incident is the United Nations which either does not have the ability or the desire to take deterrent action and prevent overt aggression by the U.S. leadership against a small and oppressed nation. The bloodbath in Panama once again proved the ineffectiveness of the United Nations and of the Security Council vis-a-vis the right of veto by the satanic powers. Thus, there is no doubt that the bombastic allegations by the world powers and forums are nothing but an illusion and that the only way to confront oppression and military domination today is through the uprising of nations.

Commentary Says Pope Endorses Panama 'Massacre'

NC1101153390 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 25 Dec 89 p 2

[Commentary: "Christ and the Pope"]

[Text] Christ was the messenger of love and compassion. The son of man had no place to lay his head. His home was the fields and He and His disciples wandered from city to city, from street to street, sympathizing with the pains and calamities of people and crying for and healing them.

The poor and the oppressed awaited Christ and they joyfully welcomed Him when He came. The murderous Emperor Pilate, worried about Christ's presence and influence, he sent his men to arrest Him. Christ was arrested and crowned with thorns....

Today, instead of showing compassion to people, the pope has become the tool that was in the hands of Pilate. He has become the belt [which the Christians of the Levant were forced to wear to distinguish them from the Muslims] around the waist of arrogance. And instead of a crown of thorns like Christ wore, a crown made from the gold of the rich and powerful rests of the head of the pope. And instead of Christ's grief-stricken face, the pope's face is fat and red—a clear sign of his well-being, comfort, and dependence.

Such a pope must be in the service of Bush. He dismisses the Panamanian people's struggles and endorses the massacre of the Panamanians by the American soldiers.

Felicitations to the Christians, Muslims, and freedom-seekers of the world on Christ's birth, and condolences to the Christians on the behavior of the pope.

ETTELA'AT Assails U.S. Arrest of Noriega

NC1301141590 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 6 Jan 90 p 2

[Unattributed commentary: "The Arrest of Noriega"]

[Text] Regardless of Noriega's past record, last year he became the symbol of resistance and opposition to the United States. The U.S. military aggression clearly proves that the U.S. espionage machinery's political attempts to topple Noriega proved ineffectual. The U.S. Government was forced to resort to direct military aggression to consolidate its interests and to maintain control over the strategic Panama Canal.

As is customary in the United States, a public opinion poll was taken, and most people supported the military intervention, hailing Noriega's arrest and calling Bush a national hero. This is only one side of the coin, and it pertains to the United States. The other side of the coin includes the United Nations, the UN Security Council, the Vatican, and other countries. The U.S., British, and French veto prevented the Security Council from condemning the United States. Since the secretary general could not get an accurate report on the Panamanian situation, he remained indifferent and ambivalent. The Vatican, which was so engrossed in its Christmas celebrations, handed Noriega over to the U.S. troops, as a present to the United States, thus endorsing the U.S. military intervention in Panama. This delivery of Noriega, which was shown on the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran last night, was a sad spectacle but one which teaches a lesson.

U.S. forces wearing black shackled Noriega; this exhibition was a U.S. attempt to impress its preponderance and determination upon the world. Quite a while ago, the U.S. Senate approved a law that anyone, regardless of his citizenship, who is identified as a criminal by U.S. tribunals is considered as such. The U.S. officials have the power either to arrest him and bring him to the United States or to kill him. Noriega was the first step in implementing that law.

A considerable change has been effected in U.S. Government policy and its modus operandi. This means that

whenever the United States decides that the president of a certain country is a criminal, it will intervene and set up another president and another government, thus establishing a democracy!

In a world where the United Nations, the Security Council, and the Vatican back U.S. policies and intentions, and, as the saying goes, even salt has begun to decay, nations like us and revolutions like our Islamic revolution have no recourse but to depend upon and to fend for themselves. Is there any alternative for us but to launch a jihad for work, production, and the country's development and to abstain from minor and peripheral matters?

Kazempur-Ardabili Named New Ambassador to Japan

LD1001111690 Tehran IRNA in English 0956 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 10, IRNA—On the proposal of Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and approval of the President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani Hoseyn Kazempur-Ardabili was appointed Iran's ambassador to Japan Wednesday. The post was formerly held by Mohammad Hoseyn Adeli who was appointed Central Bank governor in the new administration of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Kazempur-Ardabili has served as minister of commerce in the late Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i's cabinet, deputy foreign minister for economic and international affairs, deputy oil minister for international and commercial affairs, foreign minister's advisor for international affairs and also member of the secretariat of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

Kharrazi Announces Upcoming Release of 50 POW's

LD1301111990 Tehran IRNA in English 0856 GMT 13 Jan 90

[Text] United Nations, New York, Jan. 13, IRNA—Iran has accepted a Soviet proposal that Iranian and Iraqi foreign ministers hold talks in Moscow within the framework of the UN Security Council Resolution 598 and the 1975 Algiers Accord but no agenda has yet been set for the negotiations, Iran's UN envoy Dr Kamal Kharrazi told foreign reporters here Friday [12 January]. He also said Iran will free another batch of 50 Iraqi POWs shortly.

He said Saddam Husayn's recent peace proposal indicated that Baghdad was reluctant to cooperate with the UN secretary general in implementation of the Security Council Resolution 598 for the cause of peace in the region. He added that the Security Council and other international forums should press Iraq to accept the UN chief's plans in this connection.

In his first meeting with the press since he has arrived here last September, Kharrazi reiterated that Iraq has also refused to reply to a UN chief's offer to set an agenda for negotiations on the basis of paragraph 41 of his September report on the Iran-Iraq peace talks.

On Iraq's proposal to hold direct negotiations in Tehran and Baghdad, he said Iraq aimed to undermine the peace resolution and Perez de Cuellar's peace efforts.

On the issue of prisoners of war (POWs), Kharrazi said "by insisting on a simultaneous exchange of all the POWs and withdrawal of forces to the international-recognized borders, we meant an immediate reunion of the POWs with their families."

Kharrazi also explained that several Iranian cities and villages are still under Iraqi occupation making it impossible for more than 100,000 Iranians to return to their homes "this is a human issue which needs attention," he stressed.

Further on Iranian POWs held in Iraq, he put their numbers at 55,000 adding that only 19,000 of them have been registered by representatives of the International Red Cross.

"There are 50,000 Iraqi POWs in Iran," he noted and said "since 1984, meetings have been arranged between some 10,000 of them with 28,000 members of their families."

"50 more POWs will hold meetings with their families next month."

The Iranian envoy also informed the reporters of arrival of the ICRC [International Committee of the Red Cross] representatives to make preparations for release of 50 injured Iraqi POWs and expressed the hope that Iraq will reciprocate.

He explained that the Iraqi proposal to release all disabled and injured POWs and arrange meetings between POWs and their families was an Iranian initiative.

Kharrazi also briefed the reporters on the recent developments in the Irano-Soviet border noting that the two countries' authorities have considered the issue in their recent talks and have stressed the need to facilitate exchange of visits between Soviet and Iranian Azeris in both sides of the border who are mostly relatives.

On the Soviet Azeris demand for autonomy, the Iranian envoy said "this is an internal issue of the Soviet Union and Iran will not support such demands."

Further on Release of Iraqis

LD1601121390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] Continuing the humanitarian measures taken by the Islamic Republic of Iran, 50 more disabled and wounded Iraqi POW's will be unilaterally released tomorrow.

According to the Central News Unit, the head of the POW administration committee announced this at a

news conference this morning. He referred to the Islamic Republic of Iran's good-will with respect to the exchange of POW's and added: So far, 1,490 disabled and wounded Iraqi POW's have been released in 21 groups. The Iraqi regime, however, has only released 949 people of which 456 have been Iranian civilians.

He added that tomorrow, in response to the request of the UN secretary general for the release of POW's in the new Christian year, the Islamic Republic of Iran will repatriate another 50 Iraqi POW's, who have been examined by Red Cross doctors.

The head of the POW administration committee also spoke about the facilities established for visits between POW's and their families and said: So far, about 28,000 members of Iraqi POW families, from inside the country and outside, have visited 9,900 Iraqi POW's. This will continue and in the current month, 150 more POW's will see their families.

He added in conclusion: The number of Iraqi POW's registered in Iran is about 50,000; while the Iraqi Government has only registered 19,000 Iranian POW's in Iraq, while 34,000 Iranian POW's in Iraq remain unregistered.

Commentary on Iran-Iraq Proposed Moscow Meeting

LD1301130990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1058 GMT 13 Jan 90

[Political commentary]

[Excerpts] Following the return of our country's deputy minister of foreign affairs from Moscow, it was announced that Iran had accepted the Soviet Union's proposal on holding talks by the two countries ministers of foreign affairs in Moscow within the framework of the Resolution 598 and the 1975 agreement. [passage omitted]

The Islamic Republic of Iran informed the Soviet authorities to present their plan (?so that) the proposal be studied with a positive attitude by Iran.

According to available reports, the Iraqi regime has also informed the Soviet authorities of its preparedness to participate in the talks. [passage omitted]

The obstructionism by the Iraqi regime and the resulting deadlock in the talks not only have influenced efforts at reconstruction in the two countries but they have also kept tension in the region alive, which in addition to having direct impact upon the two countries of Iran and Iraq it has also continued to keep the POW's of the two countries in captivity and heightened the existing anxieties in the region.

In any case, the Soviet proposal, which is trying to bring the Iranian and Iraqi ministers of foreign affairs together, accompanied by the Soviet foreign minister in Moscow, contains points worthy of attention.

The very existence of the said proposal is in itself an indication of the way the international order perceives the existing conditions; that is, the mere establishment of cease-fire cannot be regarded as a guarantee for peace and stability in the region and that sooner rather than later the next steps, explicitly mentioned in the resolution, must be taken.

On the other hand, the Soviet proposal is the first official participation by a third country in the talks between Iran and Iraq with the presence of the UN secretary general and within the framework of Resolution 598. Therefore, the conditions, the agenda of the talks, and the likelihood of the success of these talks—avoiding unnecessary lengthening of the talks and unnecessary complications—are very important.

At the same time, the Soviet party, who will participate in talks as a mediator, is itself one of the permanent members of the Security Council and a signatory to the Resolution 598 and in addition maintains expanded ties with both parties of Iran and Iraq. Ever since the monarchy was overthrown in Iraq, ties between Moscow and Baghdad have always been at the highest level and the Soviet Union has been among the major suppliers of weapons to Iraq.

In any case, the news initiatives and the change of the venue of talks apart, what in fact is regarded as a guarantee for arriving at a desirable and sound result in these talks is the fact that the proposals must fit into explicit molds in line with the contents of the resolution and the secretary general's initiatives. This is because the Resolution 598 and the valid frontier agreement of 1975 are the only international documents according to which the existing conditions can be removed.

Khamene'i Remarks on Support for Officials Hailed

NC1201135890 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 2 Jan 90 p 2

[Unattributed commentary: "The Blessings of the Supreme Jurisconsult and the Leadership"]

[Text] The recent remarks by the leader of the Islamic revolution, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, on the need to support the country's executive officials and to oppose attempts to weaken them and the subsequent extensive expressions of support from the various sectors of the population, require some clarification. The following points should be stressed:

First, the imam [as published] is the supreme jurisconsult, the ruler, and the leader of Islamic society. He is at the head of all affairs and is the highest axis around which all people and groups should revolve. To deviate from this axis will result in disgrace and defeat in this world and divine wrath in the next. If the enemies succeed in weakening or destroying the status and esteem of the leadership in an Islamic system and if they designate other orbits for individuals or groups, one should anticipate domination by insurgents, who will

have no pity for the small or the big and will destroy all the people's gains with the most decisive blows.

The members of an Islamic society have a definite obligation in accordance with shari'a and wisdom to obey the decrees and instructions of the supreme jurisconsult and should not have the slightest doubt in this regard.

Second, the Muslim revolutionary people of our country have repeatedly proved they understand where the higher interests of the revolution and the system lie in these most delicate and fateful moments and at times have acquitted themselves even more creditably than politicians or experienced individuals.

There can be no doubt that in matters of leadership and rule of the supreme jurisconsult the people fully comprehend the sensitivity of this issue and defend the prestige and honor of the leadership with all their might. They do not accept any excuse or pretext by any individual which might cast a slur on or result in indifference toward this prestige and honor.

Third, it would be appropriate if the valuable remarks by the leader of the revolution—regarding the people's support for the country's executive officials and refraining from anything that would result in weakening them or becoming indifferent to them—is not to be interpreted as a ban on criticism of the performance of the government or officials. The current trend prevailing in the press and media of the country shows this. Healthy criticism is constructive only if it is not an ad hominem attack or aimed at a particular group.

Fourth, no one has the right to take refuge behind any binding articles of support for the leadership to settle personal grudges with rivals or opposing parties by concocting a mixture of fact and fiction and attributing this to his opponents. This becomes even more reprehensible when this is done by officials who do not have a political record of following the imam or supreme jurisconsult and who were the targets of criticism by his eminence the imam, may God be pleased with him. They are the ones who take refuge behind the noble slogans of support for the leadership with no other motive than to fan the flames of disunity and discord in society.

We beseech the almighty that all of us may be successful in our task of gratitude to the leadership and the supreme jurisconsult, which is the source of prosperity and victory of the revolution, the people, and the country, God willing.

Bonab Area Raised to Level of Governorate

LD1101192990 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] In implementation of the new plan for administrative organizations, the subgovernorate of Bonab has been raised to the level of a governorate.

Bonab is situated in the southwest of East Azarbayjan Province and has two districts, Central and Malekan, and 160 villages. Also, on the basis of the latest census in 1987, it has a population of more than 240,000.

Nepal

Nepali Congress Plans National Convention

BK1601131490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1302 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] Kathmandu, Jan 16 (AFP)—For the first time the outlawed pro-democracy Nepali Congress will go ahead with a national convention without fear of interference from local authorities, party sources said here Tuesday [16 January]. The sources said the three-day convention would be the first time since all political parties were banned 29 years ago and a partyless Panchayat (parliament) system introduced that it had been able to do this.

Some 3,000 people including party activists and pro-left leaders are expected to attend the convention which starts Thursday, as are observers from Britain's opposition Labour Party and the London-based Socialist International. Also expected to attend are Indian members of Parliament from the Janata Party, the Congress (I), and the Communist Party of India (CPI-M), together with ambassadors from the United States, Japan, West Germany and China, the sources said.

Mathbir Singh, one of the youth leaders of the Nepali Congress, said the Indian MPs [members of Parliament], including the leader of the Janata Party Chandra Shekhar and the party's 11 other MPs, were expected to arrive here either Wednesday or early Thursday.

The seniormost leader of the Nepali Congress, Ganesh Man Singh, is due to open the convention which will be held at his house here because of government restrictions on the convention being held in a public place.

The convention will discuss the "final date and modality" of a planned nationwide political movement organised by the Nepali Congress to demand the restoration of multi-party rule and the dissolution of the partyless system, sources said.

Also attending the inaugural function will be senior leaders of the newly constituted United Leftist Front (ULF), which brings together the seven factions of the outlawed Nepali Communist Party for the first time. The ULF leaders have already announced their support for the movement.

Groups of helmeted riot police with long staffs were seen moving in Kathmandu Tuesday in an apparent bid to take precautionary measures to avert any possible violence or disturbances.

Nepali Congress leaders have said the political movement would be introduced "peacefully and non-violently."

The party sources said that so far over 30 young activists of the Nepali Congress in western Baglung, Bardiya, Nepalgunj, Taulihawa and Parbat Districts had been arrested while trying to organize the convention.

A press statement released by Nepali Congress president, Krishna Prasad Bhattarai, said the convention was aimed at improving "the national economy and political system," adding that to acheive this the party had decided to launch a "nationwide people's movement."

Mr. Bhattarai said the convention would also discuss the socio-economic and political situation in the country including the "re-establishment of full-fledged human rights" in accordance with the United Nations Charter, together with enonomic progress and the development of the country's culture.

Embassy Conveys 'Strong Displeasure' to Indians

BK1701112490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1100 GMT 17 Jan 90

[By Anil Penna]

[Text] New Delhi, Jan 17 (AFP)—The expected presence of several Indian politicians at a conference of the banned pro-democracy Nepali Congress could set back thawing Indo-Nepal relations, diplomats said here Wednesday [17 January].

Several high-profile MP's [members of Parliament], including members of the ruling National Front alliance, have said they would attend the conference beginning in Kathmandu Thursday to discuss the launching of a democracy movement in Nepal.

The Nepalese Embassy here has conveyed its "strong displeasure" to the parties, which include former Premier Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) and the Communist Party of India-Marxist, a National Front ally.

"We have told these parties that their presence would be regarded by us as a direct interference in the internal affairs of Nepal," a senior Nepalese diplomat said.

"Any change in Nepal will be brought about by the people of Nepal, not by outside intervention.

"Their attendance will only succeed in vitiating the atmosphere just when relations between our two countries have shown signs of improvement," the diplomat said.

All the parties, including the National Front, responded that they were not sending official delegations. Members planning to attend were doing so in their individual capacity and not as party representatives, they explained.

"But it is difficult to demarcate a line when members of the party in power are involved," the Nepalese diplomat said. "How can we make a distinction between their individual and party capacity?"

Relations between the two Hindu-majority nations are recovering from a crisis that erupted in March when India suspended an array of trade concessions and closed all but two transit points to the land-locked kingdom.

The ensuing economic blockade, which came amid conflicting postures on trade and transit arrangements, virtually crippled Nepal's economy. The National Front government which came to power following elections in November promised to undo the damage.

The fence-mending process began this month when Nepalese Foreign Minister Shailendra Kumar Upadhyaya came here for talks to resolve the dispute. Another meeting is planned in Kathmandu probably next month.

The Nepalese diplomat said the atmosphere at the next round of talks could be "seriously clouded" because of the Indian political presence at the Nepali Congress conference.

The conference will discuss a planned nationwide political movement organised to demand the restoration of "complete democracy" in the Himalayan kingdom including a multi-party system and "full-fledged human rights."

Nepal, the world's only Hindu kingdom, is governed through the partyless Panchayat system of directly elected local and national councils while King Birendra wields significant political and executive power.

The Nepali Congress supports a constitutional monarchy and was banned by King Mahendra, father of the present monarch, after he dismissed the country's first parliamentary government in December 1960. The sole pro-democracy movement in Nepal, the party is known to enjoy close ties with Indian political groups.

Chandra Shekhar, a prominent member of the National Front, praised the Congress for keeping the "flame of democracy burning" in Nepal. He denied that his presence at the conference would amount to an interference in Nepal's affairs.

"When there is an upsurge of democratic movements the world over, how can Nepal remain untouched," he said.

"We believe that the Nepalese can take their own decisions about their political system, but we would like human rights and democratic values to be honoured in that country. These are issues not limited by national frontiers."

Marxist member Harkishan Singh Surjeet expressed similar views, saying he was going to attend the conference to express "solidarity with people fighting for democracy."

Irritants have often plagued relations between India and Nepal, bound by a 1950 friendship treaty that guaranteed an open border and reciprocal freedom for each other's citizens to travel, hold property, business and jobs.

'United Left Front' Demands Multiparty Democracy

BK1501161390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Jan 90

[Text] In Nepal, seven communist groups have formed a united left front. Mrs Sahana Pradhan is the president of the front. Its 18-point charter of demands was released at a news conference in Kathmandu today. The demands, among other things, include abolition of partyless panchayat system and introduction of multiparty parliamentary democracy in the country.

Pakistan

Protest Lodged to Kabul Over Scud Missile Firing

BK1501025890 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 15 Jan 90

[Text] Pakistan has strongly protested to the Kabul regime over the firing of a Scud missile on Pakistani territory last Wednesday [10 January] by Kabul regime troops. The missile had landed near Wah.

The Afghan charge d'affaires was summoned to the Foreign Office yesterday and was told that the responsibility of serious consequences as a result of any such attack rests with the Kabul regime and that Pakistan will take all necessary steps for the protection of its citizens' lives and property.

Spokesman Voices 'Surprise' at Indian Statement

BK1601162690 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] A Foreign office spokesman has expressed surprise at the statement issued by the Indian Foreign Office yesterday on the situation in occupied Jammu and Kashmir. He said it is unfortunate that the Indian Foreign Office, while commenting on the statement [by a Pakistan Foreign Office spokesman] of Sunday last [14 January], had completely ignored the positive framework in which reference to India-Pakistan relations was made, particularly the unambiguous emphasis on the provisions of Simla agreement. The spokesman reiterated that Kashmir is a disputed territory and its final settlement is outstanding. This was recognized in the Simla agreement itself.

The spokesman reaffirmed that pending a settlement of the Kashmir dispute, Pakistan fully respected the line of control. He expressed the hope that India would not try to shift the blame on Pakistan for its problems in occupied Kashmir which were completely indigenous and have resulted from the denial of the right of self-determination to the people of Kashmir.

Parliamentary Committee Assesses Kashmir, Siachen

BK1701045790 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 17 Jan 90

[Text] The standing committee of the National Assembly on defense met in Islamabad yesterday. The minister of state for defense, Colonel Ghulam Sarwar Cheema, retired, who presided, said the present government is committed to defending the sovereignty, integrity, and security of the country at all costs. He said the causes of the worsening situation in occupied Jammu and Kashmir were purely indigenous. India, instead of removing dissatisfaction from among the people of Kashmir, was unjustifiably blaming Pakistan.

Referring to the Siachen problem, the minister of state told the committee that we have inherited the problem from the previous government. He expressed confidence that India has to vacate this area because it is a legitimate part of Pakistan.

The secretary in the Defense Production Division apprised the committee on projects now being implemented as well as on future projects in the defense production sector.

Commentary Rejects Indian Allegations on Kashmir

BK1601063090 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 15 Jan 90

[Commentary by Umar Latif: "Disturbances in Occupied Kashmir"]

[Text] The killing of the innocent, unarmed Muslims in the occupied Kashmir seeking their right of self-determination is a grave cause of concern for Pakistan. Indeed, it should be a matter of concern for the entire world. People of Kashmir have been denied their right of self-determination by India for the past 4 decades, but by brutality the right of plebiscite cannot be crushed. Recent disturbed conditions in the occupied Kashmir is a case in point. With the advent of the 1990's, a new era of freedom has dawned. History is full of success stories of freedom fighters against powerful occupying forces.

Whatever has been happening in the occupied Kashmir these days is nothing new to which India should express dismay and surprise. Instead of searching a just, equitable, and peaceful solution of the Kashmir problem, India has been accustomed to blaming Pakistan for the upsurge in the occupied Kashmir. The case of Kashmir is pending for a just solution under the UN resolutions. Both India and Pakistan have been committed to hold the plebiscite in Kashmir and settle this problem through the best judgment of the people of Kashmir. Kashmiris in the occupied area have been denied their basic right to decide the fate of their region. Whenever they have raised their voice, Indian leaders have turned a deaf ear to it. When the situation turns intolerable, people come out on the streets. Exactly this has been happening nowadays in the occupied Kashmir.

It is a futile effort of Indian leaders to blame and make Pakistan the scapegoat for this upsurge. Having deployed the largest ever strength of its forces at the control line and with the presence of the United Nations observers there, it makes no sense that India should resort to anti-Pakistan propaganda and mislead the Indian public. India has deliberately kept the Kashmir issue unresolved so that it can grind its own axe and play the bully to Pakistan.

Pakistan has been making sincere efforts for normalization of relations with India so as to bring peace to the subcontinent, so that the economic good of the teeming millions living in the region could be achieved. With this purpose, time and again Pakistan has pleaded for entering into various agreements to promote peace. Mostly, India has responded in the negative, having been bolstered by its military and manpower might. But the doctrine of might is right has never prevailed, (?not) for long. The people of Kashmir have been seeking their right of self-determination and it is their determination to get it by all means possible. No power could deny or destroy their strong will to have their land free from the occupying Indian forces, which have shown their designs by suppressing the popular will by use of brute power resulting in the killings of scores of Muslims.

It must be an urgent matter for the (?world) countries to bring an equitable and just solution to the Kashmir problem. By delaying justice, it is being denied. On the other hand, great sacrifices were provided by [words indistinct]. If the situation is fraught with further dangers, it will not be in the interest of India or of Pakistan either, and that is why Pakistan has been consistently pleading for a peaceful and just solution of the Kashmir issue. The scale and the magnitude of the enduring struggle being waged by Kashmiris is a heroic testimony to the deep roots of the Kashmiri will to self-determination, which cannot be inspired from the outside. Any efforts to attribute it to Pakistan or another external element would be a self-defeating exercise. India must shun such a temptation and instead search for a peaceful solution of the Kashmir issue.

Iranian Official Holds Talks on Afghan Situation

Spokesman: 'No Differences'

BK1501025490 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 15 Jan 90

[Text] Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Alaeddin held talks with the foreign secretary on the situation in Afghanistan in Islamabad. Later, a Foreign Office spokesman said that there are no differences between the two countries on the Afghan issue.

Discusses Other Issues

BK1501154990 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 15 Jan 90

[Text] Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Alaeddin Borujerdi called on Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan and the prime minister's adviser on foreign affairs and national security, Iqbal Akhund, in Islamabad and exchanged views with them on the bilateral, regional, and international situation. He also held talks with the foreign secretary and senior Foreign Ministry officials. The two sides exchanged views on the Afghanistan situation. They also stressed the need for a more active role of the Economic Cooperation Organization. Pakistan, Turkey, and Iran are members of the organization. They also exchanged views on the regional situation in general and on increasing economic cooperation between the two countries in particular.

Tehran Radio Reports Meetings

LD1501131290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Jan 90

[Text] The Foreign Ministry deputy for Asia and Oceania, who is visiting Pakistan, met and conferred with the Pakistani foreign minister in Islamabad yesterday. The two officials discussed various areas of bilateral cooperation and also the issue of Afghanistan and recent developments in the country.

According to the Central News Unit, Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzadah Yaqub Khan affirmed the Islamic Republic of Iran's views about guaranteeing any kind of political solution for the Afghan issue. [sentence as heard]

Borujerdi, our country's Foreign Ministry deputy for Asia and Oceania, also met and conferred yesterday with Pakistani Deputy Foreign Minister Ahmad Khan. In the meeting, in which bilateral ties, UN Security Council Resolution 598, and the Afghan issue were discussed, Ahmad Khan laid stress on the implementation of Resolution 598 and expressed the hope that a lasting peace would be established in the region.

There was also a meeting between our country's deputy foreign minister and 'Eqbal Khan, the Pakistani prime minister's foreign affairs and security adviser. The Pakistani prime minister's adviser stressed the expansion of mutual ties and welcomed the exchange of delegations between the two countries as a move toward the establishment of closer ties.

Iranian Trade Agreement; Delegation To Tehran

BK1701044990 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 17 Jan 90

[Text] Pakistan and Iran have agreed to ensure a balanced trade. An agreement to this effect was signed yesterday by senior officials of the two countries. The agreement is in pursuance of the decisions made during the meeting of the Pakistan-Iran Joint Ministrial Commission in Tehran in March last year to increase border trade between the two countries.

Meanwhile, an eight-member parliamentary delegation leaves Karachi for Tehran today on a week-long visit to Iran. National Assembly Speaker Malik Meraj Khalid,

who will lead the delegation, said in Islamabad last evening that avenues would be explored for further cooperation between the two brotherly countries. He said the delegation will hold meetings with Iranian leaders, including President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, to discuss ways for pursuing a common strategy in economic development.

Sri Lanka

Northeast Minister 'Prepared' for New Elections

BK1301155490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 13 Jan 90

[Text] The chief minister of the Northeastern Province of Sri lanka, Mr Varadraj Perumal, says he is prepared to step down and face fresh elections after Colombo devolves adequate power to the provincial council. In an interview with the AIR [All India Radio] correspondent, Sebastian Roberts, in New Delhi this evening, he said the situation would return to square one if the Peacekeeping Force leaves the province before achieving this objective. Mr Perumal also appealed to the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] to negotiate with all Tamil groups to unitedly fight for the cause of the Tamils.

Provincial Council Official, 3 Bodyguards Killed

BK1401130090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 14 Jan 90

[Text] The deputy chairman of Sri Lanka's Northeastern Provincial Council and three of his bodyguards were kidnapped and killed by suspected LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] gunmen in the eastern Amparai District yesterday. According to UNI, the bodies of Mr Chalia Ganesh Mutthu, who belonged to the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization, and his bodyguards were found behind a hospital. They were kidnapped by gunmen at Atulugama.